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THE
PREVENTIVE OBSTACLE,
OR
CONJUGAL ONANISM.

THE DANGERS AND INCONVENIENCES TO THE INDIVIDUAL,
TO THE FAMILY, AND TO SOCIETY, OF

FRAUDS IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF
THE GENERATIVE FUNCTIONS.

BY

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TRANSLATED FROM THE THIRD FRENCH EDITION,

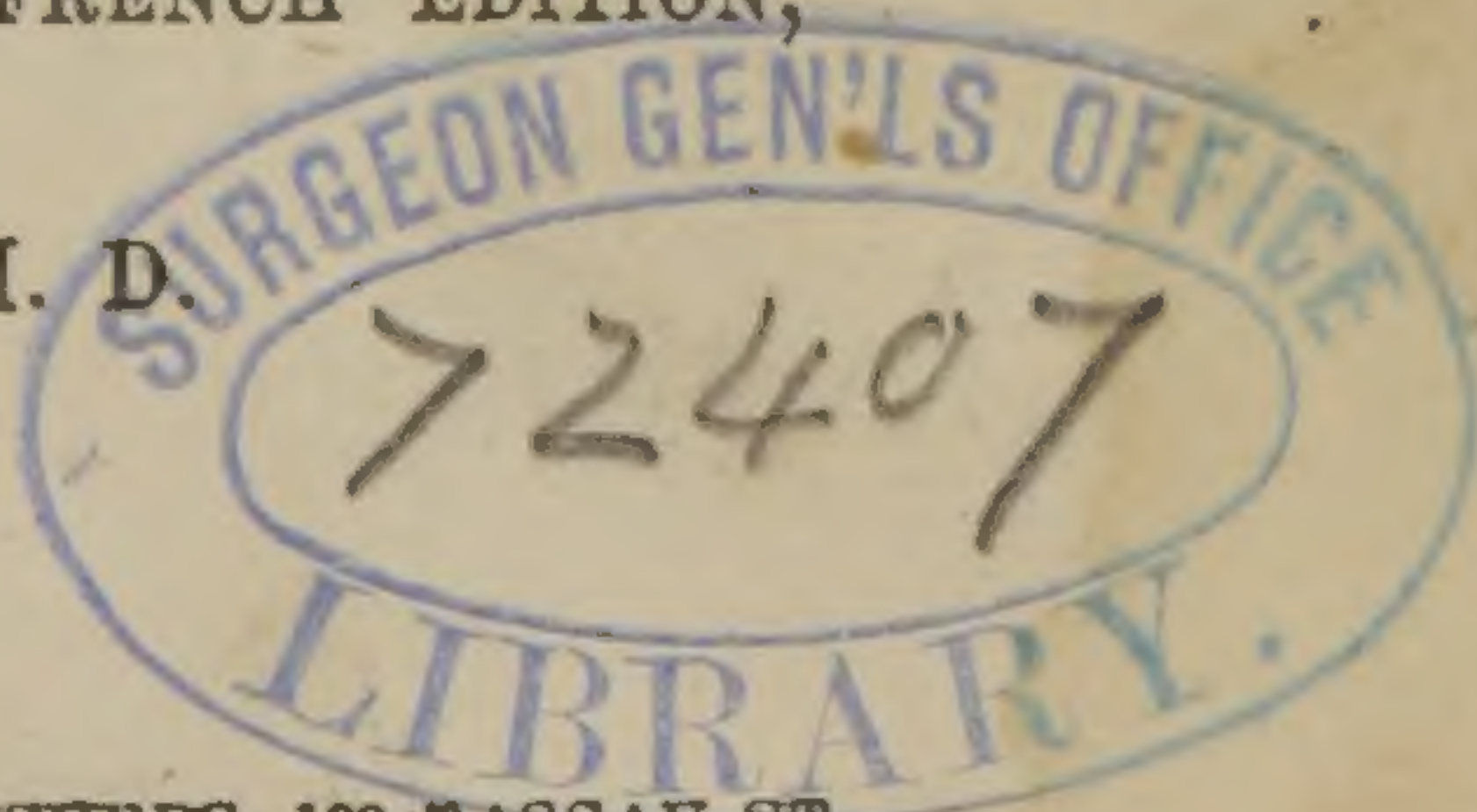
BY

P. DE MARMON, M. D.

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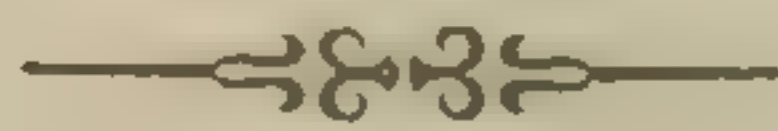
PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.



THE very marked success attending the publication of DR. BERGERET'S treatise, "*Des Fraudes dans l'accomplissement des Fonctions Génératrices*," of which three editions have been called for within a year, encourages the publishers to hope that the present translation may meet with equal professional favor here. The subject of which it treats is one of scarcely less interest to the sociologist than to the physician ; and it is partly on account of its important bearing on the question of population, as well as out of deference to public prudishness, that the original title has been modified by borrowing Malthus' phrase, "The Preventive Obstacle."



TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.



ON first reading the original of which I here offer a translation, I was struck by the number of diseases and moral troubles caused by that unnatural practice entitled *Conjugal Onanism*. I then reviewed in my memory the great number of cases of female disorders I had attended; and searching into the ætiology of these disorders, I remembered that many of them had no other cause than the one which forms the subject of this work. All the gynæcologists to whom I spoke about it agreed as to the usefulness of the book, as throwing the greatest amount of light upon most of the diseases of women.

No special treatise upon this subject has ever before been written. We meet with some references to the practice of sexual frauds in several works upon the diseases of women or upon hygiene; but so mingled with other matter as to afford little satisfactory information.

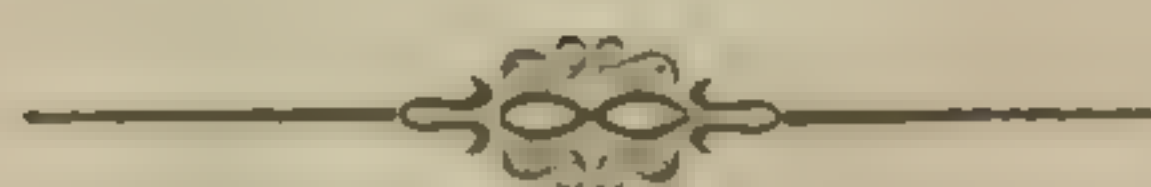
The cases reported in this book are sufficient in number and variety to satisfy the most skeptical mind.

It is concise and clear enough to be read through in a few hours, and may aid in the diagnosis and treatment of many obscure cases.

P. DE MARMON, M. D.

KING'S BRIDGE, N. Y.,
January, 1870.

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ON FRAUDS

IN THE

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE GENERATIVE FUNCTION.

ONE of the most powerful instincts nature has placed in the heart of man is that which has for its object the perpetuation of the human race. But this instinct, this inclination, so active, which attracts one sex towards the other, is liable to be perverted, to deviate from the path nature has laid out. From this arises a number of fatal aberrations which exercise a deplorable influence upon the individual, upon the family and upon society. I have observed such painful examples of this, I have been so struck by the disastrous consequences which have resulted from this cause, that I cannot resist the desire of giving publicity to my observations.

We hear constantly that marriages are less fruitful, that the increase of population does not follow its former ratio*. I believe that this is mainly attribu-

* Bulletins de l'Académie de Médecine, Paris, 1867. I. xxxii.

table to genesiac frauds. It might naturally be supposed that these odious calculations of egotism, these shameful refinements of debauchery, are met with almost entirely in large cities, and among the luxurious classes; and that small towns and country places yet preserve that simplicity of manners attributed to primitive society, when the *pater familias* was proud of exhibiting his numerous offspring. Such, however, is not the case, and I shall show that those who have an unlimited confidence in the patriarchal habits of our country people are deeply in error. At the present time frauds are practised by all classes. Two principal causes have contributed to produce this result.

The first is the diminished influence of religious precepts which severely condemn such practices. It is not without valid reasons that Catholicism forbids all kinds of frauds in the exercise of the generative functions. In this respect, as in many others, moral injunctions are in perfect harmony with the laws of nature, the teachings of physiology, and the rules of hygiene.

The second is the increase of general prosperity; the diffusion of wealth, which renders mechanics, farmers, small proprietors, less anxious to create

arms that may labor for them in their old age. They prefer the selfish enjoyment of the present to the care of rearing a numerous family.

The suppression of "birthright" has not destroyed the vanity which gave origin to that iniquitous privilege. Men possessed by the pride of wealth cannot endure the idea of the sale and partition of their estates, and, to avert this anticipation, content themselves with one or two children. To avoid a too complicated lineage, they have recourse to conjugal frauds.

Numerous authors have indicated the evils engendered by that deviation from the generative instinct which consists in individual masturbation, or manual pollution (*manus stuprum*), to which a certain number of persons addict themselves, to obtain an indirect and unnatural gratification of their desires.*

Still more pernicious, however, are the refinements of debauchery; the various manœuvres prompted by disorderly passions between persons of different sex, who endeavor to avert the natural consequence of a junction of the sexes, the fecundation of the female.

*Deslandes—*De l'Onanisme et des autres abus vénériens. Paris. 1835.*

How much greater must be the exaltation of the nervous system, the concussion which results from the contact of two persons who mutually excite each other. Is it astonishing that serious perturbations so frequently arise from this cause?

Several authors have alluded to the vice which I am about to combat, under the name of *Conjugal Onanism* ;* but this expression does not seem sufficiently comprehensive ; it is far from including all the varieties of frauds which are employed to corrupt and denaturalize sexual intercourse.

In the first place, the word “conjugal” appears to imply that the question is merely one of onanism between married people. Fraudulent practices in coition are, however, even more common among those who are not married, and who, for that reason, are still less desirous of having children.

Secondly, if we wish to trace the word *Onanism* back to its origin, we find these words in *Genesis* :†

“Dedit autem Judas uxorem primogenito suo Her, nomine Thamar. Fuit quoque Her nequam in conspectu Domine et ab eo occisus est. Dixit ergo Judas ad Onan filium suum : Ingredere ad uxo-

* Mayer: *Des Rapports Conjugaux*.

† *Genesis* : Chap. xxxviii, 5, 6, et seq.

rem fratris tui et sociare illi, ut suscites semen fratri tuo. Ille, sciens non nasci sibi filios, introiens ad uxorem fratris sui, semen fundebat in terram, ne liberi fratris nomine nascerentur. Et idcirco percussit eum Dominus, eo quod rem detestabilem faceret.”

The precaution taken by Onan is only one of the numberless frauds practiced to avoid the natural result of sexual intercourse, and it is probably of all those invented by human perversity, the one the least contrary to the laws of nature.

But it is very often relinquished for much more odious and shameful practices, as that of pederasty ; because it happens sometimes that the means adopted by those who follow Onan’s example, do not preserve the woman from pregnancy.

This result is produced principally in two ways.

A man surexcited by alcoholic libations, has connection with his wife, or his mistress ; he thinks he has been as careful as usual, but in the disorder of his ideas caused by alcohol, he makes a mistake ; the woman becomes pregnant, to her great surprise. We shall see farther on that this deception is often the source of jealousy, and may give rise to serious domestic trouble.

At other times sexual connections take place one after the other, within a short time ; a few drops of semen remaining in the urethra after the first intercourse, are carried by the second to the uterine meatus, and the woman is impregnated.

Hence, many men mistrust Onan's process, and discard it as of doubtful efficacy, to substitute for it manœuvres still more monstrous.

There are several of these upon which I must insist, because I have frequently seen the worst results from them. I shall only cite at present those forms of irregular connection which have been characterized in the quaint language of theology under the title of intercourse *in vase indebito*.

Facts like those I am about to relate, must have been observed by all physicians whose practice has been long and extensive. If I have thought of collecting those which chance has thrown in my way, it is because the picture thus presented may be profitably brought to the notice of younger practitioners.

It is to be wished also that medical schools should insist more upon this useful point, that the minds of students should be warned in advance against the dangers of artifices put in use to contravene nature in the satisfaction of the generative instincts.

I must also say to the reader, that, in presenting to his attention all these examples of perversity, I have had no intention of provoking a verdict of condemnation against the times in which we live. I am far from partaking the ideas of those cynic philosophers who proclaim that mankind is degenerating and becoming more and more corrupt, instead of advancing in morality. I do not admit that ancient morals were purer than those of modern days.

The abominations of paganism offer the most convincing contradiction of such undeserved accusations.

The books of *Genesis* and *Leviticus* show us that the people of God himself in the earliest ages of the world were guilty of the most obscene turpitudes.

The middle ages show us also a record of scandalous impurities.

Morals have undoubtedly improved with time ; but there remain some ancient errors to be reformed. Furthermore, the modifications which the course of centuries has determined in the habits, the ideas, and the wants of man, has rendered more frequent in our times some abuses which, in primitive ages, were rare exceptions.

In this category must be enumerated frauds in the accomplishment of the generative functions. These are, as I have already said (p. 3), the results of calculations which would not have arisen among primitive people, whose existence was the life of nature.

The following treatise will be divided into three parts :

In the *First Part* will be comprised facts illustrating the injurious effects of fraudulent coition in persons of either sex.

In the *Second Part* I shall endeavor to demonstrate its evil influence upon the family.

In the *Third Part* I shall consider the dangers and inconveniences which result to society from frauds in the accomplishment of the generative function.

FIRST PART.

DANGERS AND INCONVENIENCES OF FRAUDS TO THE WOMAN AND TO THE MAN.

I PLACE here the woman before the man, because she suffers worse effects than he from the vice I am combatting. This is not surprising. The part of the man is very simple, and of very short duration in the great act of generation. That of the woman on the contrary is complex ; her organs must operate for a long period ; nature must consequently have provided them with a special vitality, and a peculiar aptitude. If this vitality and aptitude are disturbed by imprudent practices, is it astonishing that the most severe disorders result ?

Before entering into the details of facts, I must establish an important distinction between the different methods employed to frustrate nature in sexual intercourse.

There is a well marked difference in this respect between the working class and the rich, the latter

being able to have recourse to all sorts of refinements.

The laboring classes are generally satisfied with the practice of Onan, pederasty, or other modes *in vasa indebito*. They are seldom familiar with the sheath invented by Dr. Condom, and bearing his name.

Among the wealthy, on the other hand, the use of this preservative is generally known. It favors frauds by rendering them easier; but it does not afford complete security, and I shall show by the report of accidents which might have led to tragic results, (Case LX) the serious inconveniences that may arise from its use.

I shall divide frauds in coition into two classes : *Direct and Indirect*.

CHAPTER I.

OF FRAUDS.

The injurious consequences engendered by the practice of sexual frauds are of two sorts.

On one hand they injure the organs of generation.

On the other, the several systems which constitute the human organism, and often the whole organism itself.

In a word, the accidents caused by frauds are *local* and *general*. I shall review them successively in both sexes.

ARTICLE I.

LOCAL ACCIDENTS IN THE WOMAN.

Genesiac frauds may provoke in her all diseases of the genital organs, from simple inflammation to the most serious degenerations or disorganization.* When I review all the diseases of women I have seen and attended, I believe that three-quarters of these disorders were caused by the practice of frauds in sexual intercourse, and that in most cases they could with certainty be attributed to it.

§ 1.—*Acute Metritis.*

This inflammation happens sometimes as a consequence of repeated frauds. A distinction however, should be made with regard to the age of the subjects. The young woman is less exposed to it than the old one. But I have seen some severe cases of metritis in women, whose age and vigor seemed to allow them such excess with impunity.

CASE I.—Woman aged 20, unmarried. She goes to bed with acute pains in the lower part of the

*Fleetwood Churchill. Diseases of Women.

abdomen, and all the signs of acute metritis, severe enough to produce an intense fever. No disturbance in her menses ; no particular accident is present to explain the invasion of the disease. Examined as to her conduct, she maintains that *she never knew a man* ; but by the touch I discover defloration and notable dilatation of the vagina. The uterus is very sensitive to pressure. I learn through one of her relations, that she has a lover : I interrogate him ; he confesses that he has had very frequent and fraudulent connections with the patient ; it was after their last interview that the first symptoms manifested themselves.

CASE II.—Woman aged 28, unmarried. Had a child five years ago : since that time, her lover has always had fraudulent and often repeated connections with her.

She now has atrocious pains in the hypogastrium, high fever, uterus very painful on pressure, engorged so that it can be easily felt around the neck, metrorrhagia. There had been no retardation in her menses, which might have inclined us to suspect that she was in the early period of pregnancy, and threatened with miscarriage. The first painful symptoms had appeared after an excess of fraudulent coition.

CASE III.—Woman aged 21, unmarried, very fair and healthy.

After several nights of fraudulent coition, acute hypogastric pains, vomiting, fever. I find the uterus very painful and swelled, it is very hot, and a yellow discharge exudes from the cervix. The phlogosis decreases slowly. Long convalescence.

This young girl who, before her sickness, might have passed for a marked type of beauty and health, has remained pale, etiolated like a faded flower. She has never recovered her brightness, nor her former freshness.

CASE IV.—Woman aged 25, unmarried, the servant of an old soldier, a hardy and exceedingly depraved fellow, who was practising upon her all sorts of fraudulent manœuvres to satisfy his passion.

Very painful metritis, followed by a quick reaction, and characterized by a complication of cystitis, which provoked very frequent vesical tenesmus : micturition of only a few drops was excessively painful. She attributed her disease positively to the ignoble practices of her master.

CASE V.—Woman aged 29, unmarried ; her lover is in the habit of drinking to excess, and when

he comes to spend the night with her in a state of intoxication, he torments her for several hours in succession, the influence of alcohol paralyzing to some considerable extent his generative faculties, and retarding indefinitely the satisfaction of his passion.

This girl has felt for some time a painful sensation in the lumbar region, and in the hypogastrium, which was very sensitive to pressure. After a night during which her lover had excited her more than usually, she felt so much pain in the back, that she had to keep her bed.

The hypogastrium and the genitals have become painful to the least contact; vesical tenesmus, sympathetic vomiting; intense fever.

This patient was for several days a prey to the most acute pains. Her health has since remained very much impaired.

Acute metritis, resulting from the sur-excitation of the generative organs produced by frauds, may become sometimes very serious, by extending to the peritoneum. I have seen two sisters who were attacked in this way.

CASE VI.—Two sisters trained in debauchery by a mother, who, at the age of fifty, called upon me to attend her for a gonorrhœa. They had inherited

the maternal disposition, and were indulging in their vile practices without reserve ; they at first, had each had a child, which was a nuisance to them ; and their lovers had received strict injunctions to prevent pregnancy again.

The eldest having gone to Paris with her lover, was taken with acute metritis, which obliged her to go to the Hotel Dieu, where she died. According to the information I obtained, the inflammation had extended to the entire abdomen, and death was the result.

I am very much inclined to believe that this girl died from such a cause, for the reason that her sister died here from an accident perfectly identical.

After a delay of eighteen days in her menses, she had colic, and a hæmorrhage followed with clots. It is very possible that she might have had a miscarriage, for it may happen, as I shall show hereafter, that notwithstanding the most careful frauds, conception may be produced, in cases where several connections have taken place, one a short time after the other.

Although she had hardly recovered from this accident, she again resumed her life of dissipation. One day she was taken with violent pains in the

hypogastrium: she went to bed, with a very intense metritis. The next day, violent chills, severe pains over the entire surface of the abdomen, which became rapidly swollen, repeated vomitings, pulse very frequent and desperately small; in a word, all the signs of a sub-acute peritonitis, which carried her off in a few days.

I have said that it was essential to make a distinction between old women and young, as to the facility with which metritis may be produced by frauds in sexual connection.

In reality, whilst a young woman may support for a certain time excesses of this kind, without experiencing any grave accidents, the woman advanced in age, and whose organs have lost their youthful aptitude, their vital resistance, suffers more severely from the consequences of excesses which are less in consonance with her age.

CASE VII.—Woman 43 years old, of a strong constitution, very passionate and lascivious. Has had no children for seventeen years, because her husband habitually practised fraudulent coition.

She opened a small tavern in a lonely street of Arbois. The house became a hot-bed of dissipation, and among the *habitues*, she selected for a lover a

vigorous young man, who had with her occasional fraudulent connections ; but their interviews were rare, the husband being seldom absent.

She was taken with all the symptoms of a sub-acute metritis, which extended to the peritoneum. Retention of urine ; necessity for the catheter ; uterus very sensitive, swollen, and in a state of retroversion. During fifteen days, pulse 126 to 130 ; on account of her strong constitution, however, she succeeded in recovering.

CASE VIII.—Woman aged thirty-eight ; husband old and dissipated ; lover somewhat paralyzed in the genitals on account of alcoholism ; but has a very depraved imagination, which urges him to useless attempts, which fatigue the woman excessively. Husband and lover both addicted to frauds.

This woman is taken with a severe attack of metritis, which requires very active treatment.

CASE IX.—Woman aged forty. She has two lovers, one of them younger than herself and very ardent, who must tire her very much ; the other older, and whom she tolerates only from interest, because he is wealthy. Both use Condoms ; woman very lascivious.

Acute metritis declared after a night of dissipation. To the acute stage succeeded a chronic one, whose cure was long and tedious.

§ II.—*Chronic Metritis.*

Still more frequently than acute metritis, we meet with chronic inflammation of the uterus as an evidence of the revolt of the organism against fraudulent practices in violation of the natural laws. I have attended so great a number of women whose health was impaired by these practices, that I feel embarrassed in the choice of my reports.

For a long time I had been collecting in my notes facts intended for the compilation of this work, when one day a married couple entered my office. Their suffering appearance confirmed me fully in the intention I had of publishing the numerous observations of this kind which had come under my notice.

CASE X.—This couple belongs to two respectable families of vintners. They are both pale, emaciated, downcast, sickly.

The physiognomy of the husband is suggestive of the fair, flaxen sons of Germany, within whose blue eyes lurk the fires that consumed Werther.

The wife with her dark, though pallid complexion, her bright black eyes, flashing with passion, resembles the ardent daughters of the South.

They have been married for ten years ; they first had two children, one immediately after the other, but in order to avoid an increase of family, they have had recourse to conjugal frauds. Being both very amorous, they have found this practice very convenient to satisfy their inclinations. They have employed it to such an extent, that up to a few months ago, when their health began to fail, the husband had intercourse with his wife habitually two and three times in the twenty-four hours.

The following is the condition of the woman : She complains of continual pains in the lower part of the abdomen and kidneys. These pains disturb the functions of the stomach and render her nervous. The pains are accompanied by abundant leucorrhœa and menorrhagia, which exhaust her. By the touch we find a very intense heat, great sensibility to pressure, and all the signs of a chronic metritis. The patient attributes positively her present state to the too frequent approaches of her husband.

The husband does not attempt to exculpate himself, as he also is in a state of extreme suffering. It

is not in the genital organs, however, that we find his disorder, but in the whole general nervous system ; his history will find its place in the part of this work relative to general disturbances.

CASE XI.—Woman aged twenty-five years ; I attended her mother twenty years ago for a metritis, resulting from conjugal frauds. The daughter is brought to me by her mother for a similar malady. Married for five years to a wine-grower, a widower, already provided with a child by his first marriage, and who has declared that he did not wish a second one. This young woman since her marriage has had nothing but fraudulent connections with her husband.

She has had for eighteen months all the symptoms of a very intense chronic metritis : acute pains, chiefly when she works in the vineyard, or during coition, which she cannot bear ; continual flow of muco-pus, often bloody ; menorrhagias, extreme sensibility to pressure of the uterus and hypogastrium ; cervix low, pressing upon the posterior wall of the vagina, and curving strongly against it. This falling, caused by the intumescence of the uterus, which increases its weight, must have the effect of producing pains in the womb every time

that the contraction of the abdominal muscles compresses it between the intestinal mass and the recto-vaginal fold, since this compression has communicated to the organ a very marked curvature.

Examined as to the reasons which prevent her husband from getting her with child, she answers that he is an egotist who lives only for himself, and who avoids procreating children to save himself the trouble of supporting them.

CASE XII.—Woman aged thirty; married at twenty-two. She had first two children, then conjugal frauds. Coition protracted, her husband being a drunkard, and his virile faculties being somewhat paralyzed thereby.

Chronic metritis of long duration, obliging her to keep her bed on account of the severe pains she has when in the erect position. Mind much disturbed, because her mother died of a cancer of the womb at the age of forty-two, and she is often told that she also had been too much fatigued by her husband. This woman has suffered a very long time from her metritis, and her existence has been poisoned by it.

Certain dissolute women, anxious to take full advantage of the few moments' liberty afforded

during brief absences from their husbands, abandon themselves to fraudulent lovers, with such disorderly passion, that their organs are affected very rapidly. I have attended several severe cases of metritis originating in this way.

In other instances, the practice of sexual frauds, by offering to depravity facilities which are abused, leads to diseases of shameful character.

CASE XIII.—Woman aged twenty-five, unmarried ; chronic metritis and profuse leucorrhœa. She confesses that for a year she has had fraudulent connections with her step-father, a man thirty-five years old, whom her mother, a woman of forty, has been foolish enough to marry, although a widow and the mother of three children. It is she who has educated her young husband in the practice of conjugal frauds ; her daughter has heard her several times repeat that she married him only on condition that they should not have any children.

I have stated that young women endured frauds without inconvenience for a longer time than older ones, whose organs offer less vital resistance. The majority of cases of metritis entrusted to my care in the latter class have been due to fraudulent coition. A few such cases I shall here report :

CASE XIV.—Mrs. X——. Married young, she had a male child the first year. The father declares that his son must be the sole heir of his fortune, in order to perpetuate the fatuous tradition of the family; but being of very ardent passions, he has with his wife very frequent and fraudulent connections.

Five or six years pass in this way without any trouble; but, towards the age of thirty, this lady begins to feel heavy pains in the hypogastrium and kidneys. Very soon these pains become continued and intolerable. She cannot bear copulation; she is obliged to spend most of her time in bed; her existence is miserable, her nervous system excited, her moral nature deeply affected.

After a rather long treatment, which had somewhat modified her state, she goes to spend the summer season at the springs of Plombieres, and comes back much better.

I then advise her to become pregnant. This happens without delay, and gestation causes no inconvenience.

After her confinement, Mrs. X. recovers perfectly; all lesions of the uterus have completely disappeared.

She has since had two more children, and her health has continued to be good.

We see widows and widowers with children, marry again at an advanced age and agree not to have any further progeny. To fulfil this intention they have recourse to conjugal frauds. I have attended several women under these circumstances who had been attacked with chronic metritis.

The subjoined case of chronic metritis, due to the same cause, possesses some interest, as having caused a very unfortunate error of diagnosis :

CASE XV.—Woman aged forty-two years. She is married to a regular satyr, who fatigues her beyond measure. Uterine pains, violent colics, womb swollen and hard. A rather long course of treatment having had no effect, I call in consultation Dr. Corbet, of Besançon. He is struck with the paleness, or rather sallowness, and meagreness of the patient ; he finds the womb so hard to the touch, that on leaving, he announces, to the consternation of the husband, that his wife has a cancer of the uterus.

The patient, however, after having led a miserable life, almost without interruption, until the time of menopause, arrives at the age of forty-five and recovers perfect health

§ III.—*Leucorrhœa*.

Sometimes the membrane which lines the interior of the womb and vagina is alone affected by fraudulent connections ; the results are profuse leucorrhœa, producing great weakness, and impairing more or less the general health.

CASE XVI.—Miss X——, aged twenty. She comes back from Paris after having spent a month there in dissipation with a frauding lover, who, even during her menses, had connection with her. She left Paris on account of sickness and pains, which were increased still more by the journey.

I find her laboring under a sub-acute uterine catarrh. Yellow discharge, having all the appearances of pus, flowing from the uterine meatus with extreme abundance ; the body of the organ is neither swollen nor sensitive to pressure.

CASE XVII.—Woman aged twenty-five ; married seven years. Only one child in the beginning, then six years of continued frauds. Her husband still has intercourse with her every day ; a few years ago, it was two and three times a day.

Pains in the back arising from the uterus, which, however, is neither swollen nor painful to pressure ; but she has a very abundant leucorrhœa which ex-

hausts her. Eczema pudendi following, very intense and very painful.

Not only is it certain that fraudulent connections may be the cause of very painful uterine catarrh, but I have seen a permanent cure effected by the occurrence of pregnancy, as in the following case :

CASE XVIII.—Woman aged thirty-two. Uterine catarrh, very abundant and exhausting. After having in vain used all sorts of remedies, learning that she had a frauding husband, I prescribed pregnancy. Soon after conception the uterine flow stopped entirely, and the general health improved very notably.

CASE XIX.—Woman aged twenty-six, married at nineteen ; had only one child, the first year of marriage.

Sterility from frauds ; exhausting leucorrhœa ; cervix well open, and very red internally ; painful gastralgia. All these symptoms disappeared during pregnancy.

CASE XX.—Unmarried woman aged nineteen. The fraudulent practices of a lover have ruined her health, by provoking a profuse uterine catarrh, and great disturbance of the digestive functions.

I forbid positively irregular intercourse, announcing that this is the cause of the existing disorders.

The lovers are married, pregnancy ensues, and a cure is the result.

CASE XXI.—I have attended two young women who had been successively employed in a *café*, kept by a man already aged, but full of vigor, and very lascivious. He used to place them under a very stimulating diet, and even ply them to partial intoxication, in order to satisfy more easily his desires, being very careful to practice frauds. He thus fatigued their organs to such an extent, that they were both obliged to leave on account of severe uterine catarrh, which forced them to keep their beds.

When a woman is already advanced in age, the fatigue caused by frauds provokes still more frequently uterine catarrh, intense enough to necessitate the intervention of a physician. It is often accompanied with red granulations at the entrance of the cervix. Many physicians* advocate the cauterisation of these granulations, which are, however, only the effect, the expansion of the disease, like the eczematous scabs, which are seen at the edges of the nostrils in cases of coryza.

CASE XXII.—Woman aged thirty. After a cauterisation with the acid nitrate of mercury, she

* Churchill. *Diseases of Women.*

was taken with atrocious colics. The family physician, who had made the cauterisation, not being found, I was sent for.

She was screaming with pain. She was taken with a violent chill, followed by all the symptoms of metro-peritonitis, which required a number of leeches and very active treatment. Besides a fraudulent and lascivious husband, she had a vigorous lover, who irritated her womb by all sorts of erotic practices. From this double source arose a uterine catarrh which exhausted her, and had given rise to those granulations of the cervix, which it was attempted to destroy by cauterisation.

I prescribed to this woman a quieter life ; she followed my advice ; her leucorrhœa diminished, and the granulations of the uterine neck disappeared.

The catarrh of the uterus, provoked by frauds, is much more painful in women advanced in age, than it is in younger ones.

I have attended a great number of libidinous women who thus expiated by acute sufferings, the vagaries of disorderly passions which they could not overcome, and which led them to gratify their inclinations with men younger than themselves, whose virile powers were in excess of their own capacity.

§ IV.—*Menorrhagia, Metrorrhagia, and
Hæmatocele.*

These three orders of accidents present a great analogy.

The organic apparatus destined to receive the human germ and to develop it, is gifted with a vascularity in proportion to the importance and the special nature of the functions devolved upon it.* Is it astonishing that fraudulent connections, which have had the effect of drawing abundantly towards the generative system the blood intended to develop the germ which should have been deposited there, are followed by serious disorders in the circulation of these organs?

CASE XXIII.—Woman aged twenty-eight. Sterile for six years from fraudulent connection, after having had two children.

Pale, emaciated, complains of losing more blood during her monthly turns than previously. In the intervals which separate these menorrhagias, the least shock, the slightest emotion brings back the blood. Heaviness in the region of the kidneys, and

* Chailly Honoré, *Traité pratique de l'art des accouchements*. 5th edition. Paris, 1867.

loss of strength, which alarms her. Nothing appreciable by touch, or with the speculum.

I advise pregnancy ; the patient recovers.

CASE XXIV.—Unmarried woman aged thirty-two ; naturally very robust.

Chloro-anæmia, caused by profuse menorrhagia; extreme pallor; great weakness; and general symptoms very distressing. Nothing noticed by the touch in the uterus, but all the signs of complete defloration, and a dilatation of the vagina, such as to lead us to suspect frequent and numerous sexual connections. She confesses that she has a very passionate lover, who excites her very much. The hæmorrhages made their appearance after frequent and repeated copulation.

I advise her to get married. She soon becomes pregnant, and recovers her health.

The afflux of blood, under the influence of repeated frauds, may be such that the woman is attacked with frightful hæmorrhage. This happened in the following case :

CASE XXV.—Young woman aged twenty-two ; delicate. Married at sixteen, she at first has two children ; then sterility from frauds. Husband very vigorous.

The husband comes to me in haste in the middle of the night, saying that his wife is *bleeding to death*.

I find her, in fact, in a state of deep syncope ; swimming in her blood. To the touch, nothing extraordinary except an intense heat, and the uterine neck patulous. Examined as to the cause of this accident, the husband confesses that it occurred at the end of a coition, which was the second of the night. He also admits that he has too frequent intercourse with his wife ; and that fearing to have children, on account of her feeble constitution, he has practised fraudulent connection for two or three years.

Sometimes the afflux of blood provoked by frauds takes another direction. It may cause a vascular rupture at a point of the generative apparatus not in communication with the uterine cavity ; then the blood, finding no avenue for escape externally, collects at one place, forming the tumor known under the name of *hæmatocele*.*

CASE XXVI.—Woman aged twenty-two years ; a brunette. Married for five months to a man very vigorous, and much addicted to frauds.

* Aug. Voisin, *De l'Hématocèle rétro-utérine et des épanchements sanguins non enkystés*. Paris, 1860.

From the beginning of her marriage she feels heavy pains in the hypogastrium and kidneys, and has very severe colics during her monthly periods. These symptoms increase quite suddenly one day after repeated copulations.

She has a very acute pain on one side of the pelvis ; fever ; hypogastrium distended, very sensitive to pressure, so much so, that it is impossible to touch it ; intense heat in the vagina ; no secretion.

After a few days of assiduous treatment and subsidence of the pains, we find on the right of the small pelvis a tumor the size of two fists. The patient says she has felt it coming since the beginning of her sickness, even before the invasion of the fever. She attributes it positively to the excitation and fatigue caused by her husband's too frequent and fraudulent connections.

After the total disappearance of the acute symptoms, the patient felt this tumor for several months ; but by degrees it disappeared entirely. But though her husband ceased fraudulent connection, she remained sterile.

§ V.—*Fibrous Tumors.—Polypi.*

The sanguineous congestion resulting from repeated frauds, instead of causing a morbid flow through the natural passages, or a peri-uterine effusion, may determine the same accidents in the thickness of the uterine folds. Collections of blood are then formed, the serous portion of which disappears by resorption, whilst the fibrine coagulates to form either those fibrous tumors so common in the body of the uterus, or polypi, which are forced out of its cavity by uterine contractions, when the blood which has served as the nucleus for the formation of the polypus has been effused near the internal surface of the womb.

Most of the women whom I have attended for this kind of disease, have had fraudulent connections with men.

The practice of frauds does not always determine material alterations in the several parts of the generative organs. They produce troubles of innervation, from which result usual pains, a local hyperæsthesia, neuralgia, and very acute colics.

§ VI.—*Uterine Hyperæsthesia.*

CASE XXVII.—Unmarried woman aged thirty ; very nervous. She complains of frequent pains in the region of the womb, of an unpleasant weight, involving the region of the kidneys. These pains are very troublesome, almost continual, and render her existence miserable ; no leucorrhœa. To the touch, nothing abnormal is perceptible in the uterus, neither in position, volume or temperature ; she is merely very sensitive to pressure. Finding the hymen destroyed, and the vagina dilated, I make enquiries and ascertain that she has a fraudulent lover, very passionate, and who very frequently sub-excites these organs.

I advised matrimony and a child ; my advice is followed, and pregnancy soon effects a radical cure.

CASE XXVIII.—Woman aged twenty-six ; unmarried. Very dissipated, she marked her *debut* in life by giving birth to two children.

She comes to consult me for uterine pains which make her life miserable, and which are felt more generally after sexual intercourse.

I find nothing abnormal in the physical condition of these organs ; there is only an excess of sensibility ; a state of tenderness, provoked by continual

excitation and nervous fatigue. She admits that her lover has practiced fraudulent connection for several years, and that during the time when she was having children, she never had any similar trouble.

CASE XXIX.—Woman aged twenty-nine ; unmarried, dark, very robust. Had a child when she was twenty. She comes to consult me to know if she can get married ; she fears that her womb is out of place, for the reason that each time she cohabits with her lover, she feels a pain in the abdomen as soon as the act is accomplished. I do not find anything abnormal in the genital organs.

I advise her to get married, and some time afterwards learn that pregnancy has put an end to all her troubles, which were probably caused by the revolt of nature against the frauds practised by these young people.

CASE XXX.—Woman aged thirty ; very lascivious. She has a husband and a lover both practising frauds.

Sensitiveness and very acute pains in the hypogastrium ; sharp lancinating pains in the clitoris, which make her sometimes shudder from head to foot ; no organic lesion.

I prescribe pregnancy and better conduct ; the patient follows my advice, and informs me a short time afterwards, that her health is very much improved.

CASE XXXI.—Woman aged thirty-four ; delicate. Husband very stout, salacious, and a drunkard. When in a state of ebriety he prolongs sexual connections indefinitely

Uterine and lumbar pains, obliging her to keep her bed ; nothing materially disturbed in the womb, but this organ is exceedingly sensitive, and its sympathy with the stomach is such, that the least pressure or friction upon the hypogastrium produces vomiting. When her husband has connection with her, she has nausea and vomiting during the act.

CASE XXXII.—Two women, aged about forty, come to consult me in the same week for acute pains in the genitals, without anything materially appreciable. In both of them the organs present such a general tenderness that it renders examination almost impossible. One of them complains of such a burning pain in the kidneys, that *it seems to her like a plate of red hot iron applied there*. Both these women, of cold temperament, have very

frequently to endure the embraces of their husbands, men very vigorous and salacious.

The disorders of uterine innervation, of which I have given several examples, are quite frequent.

I have known many women thus afflicted to place themselves under the care of some specialist, who has subjected them for several months to cauterisations, injections, pessaries, etc., etc., and to derive satisfactory benefit from such treatment. The repose afforded to the organs was the principal cause of their improved health, as the disease has speedily reappeared on repetition of the acts by which it was first generated.

§ VII.—*Hysteralgia, Colics and Uterine Neuroses.*

CASE XXXIII.—Woman aged nineteen; unmarried. Very severe pains on one side of the small pelvis; burning sensations; emaciation; wasting away. By the touch, the only thing I discover is complete defloration.

The patient confesses that she has a fraudulent lover, who fatigues her very much; that she never had any pains before she knew him.

Often women who never suffered from colic-pains during their menstrual periods, as long as they were in the condition of *intacta virgo*, are attacked with these pains to a frightful extent, after repeated fraudulent sexual intercourse.* In fact, I may say, nothing is more common with young girls whose lovers do not wish to endanger their reputation by a pregnancy, or young married women whose husbands are not in a hurry to have children. The uterine functions not following their normal course after these unnatural connections,—conception not being the consequence,—the uterus finally suffers, like a stomach whose digestive powers are tried by indigestible food.

These uterine colics are sometimes very distressing on account of their duration.

CASE XXXIV. — Woman aged twenty-nine. Married for four months to a lover with whom she had for several years had fraudulent connections. No pregnancy, though they have desisted from frauds since their marriage. The fraudulent connections, which were very frequent in the beginning, caused a sharp pain in the hypogastrium *These pains often lasted all night.*

* Raciborski, *Traité de la menstruation*. Paris, 1868.

Conception after ten months ; pains ceased after the birth of a first child.

CASE XXXV.—Unmarried woman aged thirty-four. She is thin, nervous, subject to palpitations when she experiences the least sensation, oftener from pleasure than from discomfort.

At twenty-two she commenced fraudulent connections with a lover. After a short time, each connection caused a sensation of pain in the hypogastrium and the whole body. This sensation became so troublesome at last, that she abandoned her lover to be free from it.

Notwithstanding this precaution, and though she lives in the most perfect continence, she comes to consult me for this same unpleasant sensation, which, for a year that she has no connection whatever with any man, seizes her still when a lascivious thought comes to her mind, or when she reads anything which excites her imagination. The nervous trouble she has, and the hypogastric distress, are sometimes so great that she is obliged to lie down, and two hours are necessary to re-establish her calmness. But what distresses her the most, is that she is awakened in the night by the same wretched feeling, if she has an erotic dream. The

pain is then sometimes so intense that it makes her cry.

Examination of the genitals reveals nothing. This painful condition is due to disorder of innervation.

CASE XXXVI.—Woman aged thirty-four. Husband fifty-six years old, and lover much younger; both practising frauds. The husband, very salacious, tires her very much.

She has such violent colics, that she rolls herself on her bed uttering loud screams. No signs of metritis; pulse normal.

I bled her in order to cause perturbation, making her sit up in bed to provoke rapid syncope, hoping that the collapsus will relieve the extreme surexcitation of the uterine nerves. In fact, after the syncope she appears much more quiet.

I recommended conception. As both husband and wife were very apprehensive of a recurrence of these terrible colics, their fears acted as a salutary curb,—*initium sapientiæ timor*. The woman became pregnant, and the colics never returned.

§ VIII.—*Neuralgia and Mammary Congestion.*

Genesiac frauds have sometimes a very painful influence on the mammary glands, on account of the sympathy existing between them and the uterus.* Hence result neuralgias and swellings, assuming the character of what A. Cooper used to call “*painful tumor of the breast.*” I have seen several cases of this kind which yielded only on the cessation of fraudulent connections.

§ IX.—*Uterine Cancer.*

I come to a cruel disease, one of which an operation or death is the unavoidable consequence, and which always kills the woman after a long series of the most painful tortures.†

When I review in my memory all the cases of cancers of the womb which have come under my observation, I do not really recall one which was not preceded by sexual frauds.

I have seen women still young die thus, at a time when it seemed that their life should have been exempt from such degenerescences. Why did the

* Churchill. *Diseases of Women.*

† Lebert. *Traité pratique des maladies cancéreuses.* Paris, 1851.

disease in them anticipate the ravages of time, and in some measure violate its ordinary rules? For the reason that unnatural frauds had thoroughly exhausted and prematurely worn out the generative organs.

CASE XXXVII.—Woman aged twenty; light complexion, lymphatic, very delicate. Married at sixteen to a man of dark complexion, vigorous, of an athletic frame, and who was affected with an almost continual priapism. At seventeen she had a child; then continued frauds.

At twenty-three, a second pregnancy, much to the surprise of the husband, who had always exercised great caution; but it happened that he had had intercourse with her several times at short intervals. She had a miscarriage at five months, followed by metritis and metrorrhagia. The patient attributes all these accidents to an immoderate coition.

An offensive leucorrhœa ensues; the uterine cervix is abraded, tumefied, hard.

Three months later, pain still persists, leaving her rest only for a few moments when under the influence of morphine; by turns, metrorrhagia and very foetid leucorrhœa; cervix gaping open in

mushroom-like form, much distorted ; body of uterus swollen, and very painful on pressure.

The disease makes rapid progress, like certain cases of phthisis, which are called “*galloping*.”

This galloping cancer kills the patient a few months after her miscarriage.

The husband also died prematurely. His history will be found among those of subjects who succumb to pulmonary affections caused by the practice of frauds.

CASE XXXVIII. — Woman aged thirty-two ; fine-looking, of strong constitution, very lascivious. Husband vigorous, and lover dissipated ; both practising frauds.

The woman died of galloping cancer.

CASE XXXIX. — Woman aged thirty-six ; light complexion, delicate. Married at seventeen ; three children in the beginning, one soon after the other ; then frauds, regular and often repeated. She tells me it is for her husband a necessity, a habit, *like that of smoking his pipe*.

Cancer of the womb ; neck gaping in a mushroom-like form ; intolerable lumbar pains.

CASE XL. — Woman aged thirty-five ; of good constitution. Husband very robust, though fifty-six years old.

She declares that he has fatigued her organs very much, always practising frauds in order to avoid the cares of a family. She had by this man, when she was eighteen, a female child. When this girl had reached the age of sixteen, he made up his mind to marry the mother; but the latter had been only a few months under the conjugal roof, when she discovered that her husband had incestuous intercourse with his daughter. She was obliged to send the girl away and place her at service. After her departure the mother remained alone to endure the everlasting obsessions of her husband.

At thirty-four she began to have pain in the region of the womb. Six months after, sexual approaches caused her intolerable suffering; but she is not spared on this account by her brutal husband. Finally, she is obliged to keep her bed, and I am sent for.

I find a galloping and ulcerated cancer, which kills her in a short time.*

Her husband married again a woman of fifty, who was obliged to leave him; we shall revert to his history in speaking of *indirect frauds*. (Case CI.)

* I attended last year a woman who died of a cancer of the uterus, and who told me that her husband had practised frauds for fifteen or sixteen years.—(*Note of the translator.*)

CASE XLI.—Woman aged forty-two ; fine skin, delicate. Husband very concupiscent.

Three children in the beginning of their marriage, then frauds for over fifteen years.

Scirrhus of the uterine body giving rise to dreadful pains. She did not know what position to take, she could neither lie down nor stand up ; remained night and day squatting or resting on her elbows and knees. I have never seen a more painful condition. What was the cause of this excessive suffering ? In this patient the scirrhus of the uterus was characterized by a shrinking of the organ. In my opinion, this variety of scirrhus—which may be called *atrophic*, since it withers and condenses the tissues—must be much more painful than the fungous. In the latter case, the nervous fibres are more relaxed than when enclosed by hardened muscles, which compress them on all sides.

This unfortunate woman died in excessive pain, which had greatly deranged her nutrition.

CASE XLII.—Woman aged forty-two. Scirrhus of the uterus and of the left ovary ; intolerable pains in the direction of the sciatic nerve ; continued hæmorrhages.

I have seen uterine cancer kill almost simultaneously a mother and her daughter.

CASE XLIII.—The daughter came to die in the hospital, to avoid her husband, who was tormenting her yet, notwithstanding an ulcerated and infecting cancer due to continued frauds.

The mother took to her bed at the age of fifty-three, a short time after the death of her daughter.

She had had six children, from the age of eighteen to thirty ; then regular and very frequent frauds.

Husband still very lascivious, and not sparing her any more than twenty years before.

Fungus of the neck, almost indolent, but continued discharges, which killed her rapidly.

CASE XLIV.—Woman aged forty-two. Four children, then frauds for several years.

Scirrhus of the uterus ; fungus of the neck, which bleeds upon the least touch ; perplexing hæmorrhages after the approaches of her husband, who, notwithstanding the condition of his wife, too often abuses his rights ; no acute pains. Died in a slow marasmus.

CASE XLV.—Tall and fine-looking woman, aged forty-four ; of excellent constitution. Three chil-

dren, the last one twelve years ago ; then sterility by fraud.

Husband vigorous, and very ardent.

This woman has always enjoyed very good health until the invasion of her present sickness, which began by a profuse leucorrhœa; very soon violent colics and metrorrhagia. The pains came by spells, and were very intense. The uterus has swelled so much as to acquire the size of an adult's head ; the neck is entirely obliterated. In the beginning it was supposed that it was nothing more than a fibrous body of the womb, and that nature would expel it.

One day, after several colics as violent as labor pains, she felt something pass off about the size of a nut : it was cancerous tissue. Her martyrdom lasted over a year before death.

In the preceding observations, we have seen that sometimes a certain number of years elapsed before the disease made its appearance, after the sexual connections had ceased from being regular. This long immunity may lead to a fatal illusion. It may be thought that fraudulent practices are inoffensive, and that they may be employed with safety. But in time the organs become worn out, their vitality

deranged, their texture altered, and the evil breaks out after long impunity has lulled the perpetrators of these frauds into fancied security.

But if organs still gifted with that resisting force pertaining to youth, may withstand for a long time these causes of destruction, it is not the same with women who have arrived at the decline of life. In them, frauds, even in cases where they are practised with moderation, may still be the cause of organic degenerations. We shall see this in *indirect frauds*, when speaking of the accidents which follow sexual intercourse after the menopause. (p 109.)

§ X.—*Diseases of the Ovaries.*

The important part sustained by these organs in the functions of generation, must render injurious to them the abnormal practices which affect this function. In fact, if diseases of the ovaries are comparatively scarce among women who after regular connections become mothers, they are, on the other hand, very frequent in those who thwart the aim of nature. We see, as the result, all the diseases of the ovaries, from acute ovaritis to the most serious degenerations.*

* Fleetwood Churchill, *loc. cit.*

Among the numerous cases I have observed, I will select those which present the greatest interest.

CASE XLVI.—Woman aged twenty-nine. Married at twenty, she has a child the first year; then frauds often repeated.

At twenty-five the menses become painful, and from year to year these pains become gradually atrocious colics.

At twenty-eight she comes to seek my advice. I prescribe conception; but fecundation has become impossible. By palpation, I find on each side of the abdomen a tumor, which can only belong to the ovaries. On the left side, the enlargement already has the volume of the head of a fœtus at term. This tumor is an obstacle to the passage of the fœces. The patient has had several times some symptoms of peritonitis, which may have provoked the exudation of false membranes around the tumor. This tumor, tied fast in its place by this pseudomembranous investment, instead of increasing toward the abdomen, compresses the rectum. Hence unavoidable constipation, giving rise to very violent intestinal colics, followed by a swelling of the whole abdomen, as in hernial strangulation.

After several days of horrible pains, stercorous vomiting sets in ; pulse miserable ; expression moribund. But a red and fluctuating point had formed a short distance from the iliac process (anterior superior). The abscess was soon opened, and a flow of diluted fœcal matters, accompanied by gas, escaped rapidly. The abdomen subsided immediately ; relief is immediate ; appetite returns, but the patient is so uncomfortable, and feels so ashamed of constantly soaking in her alvine evacuations, that she dares no longer eat. She refuses any kind of food, and after a few weeks dies in a complete state of marasmus.

CASE XLVII. — Woman aged twenty-nine ; unmarried. Encysted ovarian tumor filling one-half of the abdominal cavity. At the beginning, very profuse uterine hæmorrhages ; intestinal circulation very much impeded ; violent colics ; and finally, signs of peritonitis, followed by death.

In attending her I had discovered defloration, and she confessed that since the age of twenty-two she had a lover who was very ardent, and a defrauder.

CASE XLVIII.—Woman aged thirty-four. Married at twenty-five ; two children in immediate succession ; then frauds.

At thirty-two the abdomen becomes suddenly much enlarged.

I discover an encysted dropsy of the ovary ; tapping becomes necessary, but the cyst fills up so rapidly that it requires tapping every month. After the tenth paracentesis, violent chills, peritonitis, death.

CASE XLIX.—Woman aged thirty-seven ; married for seven years. Twins the first year ; then sterility through frauds.

Ovarian dropsy, necessitating numerous operations of paracentesis. Died in a state of marasmus at forty.

CASE L.—Woman of the town ; very libidinous.

At twenty-two she had a child ; then frequent coition, always fraudulent.

At twenty-six to thirty-six, atrocious menstrual colics.

At forty, ovarian cyst as large as the head of a child of eighteen months. After a hard day's washing, which had tired the abdominal muscles very much, this patient is taken with chill ; very acute pain in the tumor ; high fever, necessitating leeching and baths. After the acute inflammation, the fluid contained in the cyst was resorbed slowly, as in an

infected hydrocele, and at the end of three or four months the tumor had decreased to the size of a hen's egg.

CASE. LI.—Woman aged fifty-four. Notwithstanding her advanced age, and the caresses of a still vigorous husband, she had also a defrauding lover. Her dissipation was the cause of an acute metro-ovaritis, very intense, during which I saw her narrowly escape death by the extension of the inflammation to the peritoneal surface.

§ XI.—*Sterility.*

Young married persons very frequently begin conjugal life with continued frauds for several years, in order to avoid children and enjoy selfishly the best portion of life, postponing to a later period the time for progeny. But their calculations do not comprehend the metritis or the ovaritis which comes after a while, and sometimes very insidiously modifies so deeply the organs of the woman, that conception then becomes impossible.*

CASE LII.—Woman very lascivious. Since the age of sixteen she has had fraudulent con-

* Roubaud, *Traité de l'impuissance et de la stérilité*. Paris, 1855. 2 vols. 8vo.

nection with a lover, whom she married at twenty-three.

Sterility, though the uterine neck is normal in shape, size and position.

Three years before her marriage, after a night of debauchery with several fraudulent connections, she is taken with uterine catarrh, very intense and accompanied with fever, and acute pains in the lower belly. It is probably this inflammation of the uterine cavity, which, in extending to the fallopian tubes, has caused their occlusion and sterility.

CASE LIII.—Fine brunette, aged twenty-four.

Her mother has been very prolific. At the beginning of marriage, frequent coition with frauds ; first approaches very painful, the husband being very ardent, very soon sub-acute metritis, complicated with peri-uterine hæmatocele, and agonizing pains.

This woman kept her bed a long time ; she remained sterile, though her husband wished very much to have a child.

CASE LIV.—Woman aged twenty-eight ; very robust.

Her mother was very prolific. Married for six months, she is sterile and very much afflicted that she has no children.

She comes to consult me for pains which she has in the back and thighs. During several years before her marriage she had frequent and fraudulent connections, which were followed by such violent hypogastric pains, that they kept her awake all night.

We still meet with families who yet retain the absurd vanity which engendered the right of primogeniture. Although the law of birthright no longer exists, the pride from which it originated does. The right is replaced by the fact ; that is to say, that as soon as there is a male child born in the family to propagate the name and concentrate the whole or the greater part of the fortune upon one head, the practice of frauds is then begun. But it may often happen that these odious calculations of egotism and pride lead to bitter disappointment. I will cite an example.

CASE LV.—Mme. X—. Married very young ; in the first year she has a boy, who is received with the greatest joy. The husband takes his oath that he will stop there, and remains faithful to it. He has been heard many times to ridicule plain people, who do not recoil from the prospect of a large family. This improvident defrauder was cruelly punished ; his son died at the age of sixteen, of typhoid fever.

He immediately set to work to repair the misfortune ; but his wife, during her long period of unfruitfulness which had been sullied by the continued frauds of her husband, had come to me to complain of acute pains in the womb. A new conception was sought in vain—all aptitude to pregnancy had vanished ; there was sterility and despair.

Nevertheless, after two years of useless attempts and the use of all sorts of means to favor conception, I one day met the husband with a happy countenance ; his wife was pregnant.

But his joy was of short duration. The uterine functions, revived for a moment, had not the strength to bear the fruit long enough ; she miscarried at five months.

All subsequent attempts at fecundation failed, with an organ inert and powerless.

§ XII.—*Accidental Pregnancy.*

It happens sometimes, that persons addicted to frauds, notwithstanding the precautions they have taken, or believe they have taken, discover, to their great surprise, that their wives have become pregnant.

I have seen husbands, rendered jealous by the occurrence of an unexpected pregnancy, to which they believed themselves to be perfect strangers, maltreat their wives, and expel them from the conjugal home.

I have seen lovers abandon, on the first signs of pregnancy, mistresses whom they loved, and whom they would probably have married.

There are women whose procreating aptitude is so great, that the least quantity of semen, I might almost say the *aura seminalis*, is sufficient for their impregnation.

It is not without reason that religious law has proscribed the least intimacy between the two sexes.

It may happen, first, that the uterine neck is so low, that the penis, without being introduced into the vagina, throws the semen upon the uterine meatus.

CASE LVI.—Woman aged twenty-seven; unmarried. Amenorrhœa for four months.

She is much astonished when I tell her that she is pregnant; she protests energetically for the threefold reason that she has not felt any motion within her; that *she has no love for the man with whom she has cohabited*; and *that he has had connections with her only in a standing position*. She reminds me

she had already come to see me two years ago about an abundant leucorrhœa, and that at that time I remarked to her that her womb was very low. In fact, the uterine meatus can be seen at the entrance of the vagina. This prolapse was attributable to heavy loads, which she had for a long time lifted and carried upon her head. This position of the uterine neck had rendered fecundation possible, notwithstanding the retrocession of the penis at the time of ejaculation, the semen having reached the cervix uteri through the open labia. In fact, this girl was really pregnant; but her lover would not acknowledge the child, saying, it was *impossible* that it could be his.

CASE LVII.—Woman aged forty-four. Physiognomy full of animation and intelligence; widow for twelve years, and having two full-grown boys. She has *forgotten* herself, she says, so far as to have had, five months ago, sexual relations with a man. But inasmuch as it was standing, and he was not penetrating very deeply, she at first supposed that these connections would be without result, when suddenly she was terrified by the suspicion that she might be in the family way.

“Have your menses returned since that time?”

“Yes, sir, I have *been unwell* every month ; but I feel that I am growing large.”

“How is it that you, who have had children, should fear that you are pregnant, when you are regular every month ; did that happen to you when you were carrying your boys ? ”

“Oh, no, sir ; but this time I made the blood come.”

“And in what way ? ”

“With this,” said she, taking out of her pocket at the same time a long wooden implement, rather sharp-pointed.

“Did you carry it very high ? ”

“I introduced my finger as far as the entrance of a little opening I could feel at the bottom. I passed the stick over that finger, and pushed it until I could feel a pricking in the lower belly.”

I urged upon this woman the criminality of her conduct, and dissuaded her with all my power from the use of her instrument, telling her that justice might some day call her to account for this. I examined her, and found her, in fact, pregnant three or four months. But she never reached her full term, for her repeated attempts resulted in a miscarriage, as she herself confessed to me six years later.

She came to consult me a second time, to know if she was pregnant again. She told me that after the former occasion, her lover was careful *not to let himself be caught again*, but as he is only thirty (she being fifty), and very ardent, she fears that on a certain day he may *have forgotten himself*. There was no cause for her alarm ; the suppression which made her uneasy came from the menopause.

CASE LVIII.—Woman aged twenty-nine ; unmarried. She has had one child already, and is affected with a suppression dating from four months ago.

When called to see her, I announce that the development of the womb indicates pregnancy. Upon this shocking diagnosis, the patient exclaims : “Sir, it is impossible !” I inquire if she has not allowed certain privileges in the belief that they were harmless. She confesses that a lover comes to visit her.

In examining her, I had been struck with the extreme prolapsus of the womb, and I understood how fecundation had taken place, notwithstanding the security they felt in their connections.

The prolapsus uteri which, as in the above cases, renders fecundation possible, notwithstanding the

practice of ordinary frauds, is a condition which proves fatal to many women.*

There is another circumstance which may give rise to accidental unexpected pregnancy, producing all the painful results I have noticed, even causing, sometimes, an irremediable breach of the good understanding between the parties. Often husbands or lovers do not content themselves with gratifying their passions only once; a short time after the first approach they begin again. It may happen then that a small quantity of semen, which has remained in the urethra since the first copulation, is sufficient to impregnate the woman. They do not guard against this danger; a second connection conveys this semen towards the os, with the prostatic fluid of which the erection and coition determines the more or less abundant discharge.

CASE LIX.—Woman aged thirty-two; unmarried. She is very much surprised that her menses have not made their appearance during four months, and that her breasts have become hard and painful. She is three months and a half pregnant.

* Huguier, *Mémoire sur les allongements hypertrophiques du col de l'utérus, dans les affections désignées sous le nom descente, etc.* Paris, 1860.

She maintains that it is impossible for her to be pregnant, because her lover has taken his precautions very carefully ; that she can depend upon him, having been with him five years, and that during that time he has never been guilty of any awkwardness.

I asked her if he usually had intercourse with her several times in the night. She answered that was impossible, because he never slept in the house ; that he used to spend only a few moments with her in the evening. However, she remembers that once, a short time before she had her menses, he had remained with her a part of the night, and that they had two connections, with about an hour's interval between them.

An accidental conception may furthermore be produced under circumstances like those I am about to relate, in an episode which might have ended tragically :

CASE LX.—Woman aged thirty-six. She had several children by a husband who never used fraud. At the same time, she was provided with a lover with whom she had frequent connections during the absence of her husband, who was travelling on business. The lover had recourse to the condom,

to avoid conception during the absence of the husband.

One day, early in the morning, I was called to see this woman, whom I found preyed upon by inexpressible distress. She confessed that the previous night the condom used by her lover had ruptured, and that he noticed it only after its removal ; that she was dreadfully afraid of becoming pregnant, since her husband had already been absent for two months, and would not return for some time yet to come ; and that she would be lost if she became pregnant in his absence. I endeavored to console her, saying, that perhaps the rupture was not very large ; that most of the semen might have remained in the condom. “ That is true,” said she, “ but I become pregnant so easily, that I believe *the perspiration of a man would be sufficient to impregnate me.*”

She asked me if there were not some means of preventing pregnancy at such an early period. I answered that I did not know any. “ Then, sir,” said she, “ I have only one thing to do ;” and I saw that she had sinister designs in her mind. The terror painted on her face had but too much foundation ; her husband was a ferocious Othello,

and I was not surprised to see on her face all the anguish of Desdemona.

I tried my best to remove her fears, showing her that the dangers she apprehended had very little foundation, and I left her a little calmer. Two months after, I was sent for again, and found her with a very severe acute metritis, threatening to extend to the peritoneum.

Pressed with my questions, she finally confessed that she had been in the city to see a midwife, who had been recommended to her as producing abortions. She went to her house at eleven o'clock in the night. The wretch went to work immediately by introducing an ivory probe to break open the ovum, kept her all night, and sent her away before daylight. The patient had been taken during the day with violent pains, which lasted twenty-four hours, and were followed by miscarriage. The deed once accomplished, she hurried home; but a violent chill had overtaken her during the journey, and she had a pretty hard time to reach home and get into bed.

Very active treatment was necessary to check this metro-peritonitis, which at a certain moment assumed a very alarming character.

ARTICLE II.

LOCAL ACCIDENTS IN THE MAN.

· THOUGH genesiac frauds are far from having the same bad consequences for the man as for the woman, for the reason that his part in the function of reproduction is confined to the junction of the sexes, it nevertheless happens frequently to him to be the victim of these fraudulent manœuvres.

§ I.—*Urethritis.*

I have attended men for urethritis, which they had contracted by having connection with women during their menstrual period. They had selected this period with the idea that at that time conception was not possible.

§ II.—*Diseases of the Prostate.*

The men whom I have seen most generally suffering from the facility which the practice of frauds afforded them for satisfying their inclination to debauchery, are those old men who, like certain

spectres mentioned by Dante, are eternally consumed, during a second existence, by the superannuated passions of the first. The most severe accidents I have seen in them have been diseases of the prostate.*

I have attended a great number of these old lechers, in whom an intumescence of this organ had caused the most painful dysury, dangerous retentions of urine, consecutive catarrh of the bladder, and even death, as in the following case :

CASE LXI.—Old man, aged sixty-four. He had had a great number of mistresses, without having ever had the annoyance of a pregnancy, as he was so skilled in fraud.

At fifty-eight he begins to experience some difficulty in micturition ; I advise him to be continent, but he does not heed my advice. The vesical functions are more and more impaired from year to year.

At sixty-four, complete retention of urine occurs after a ride in a carriage. By rectal examination I find an enormous prostate. I am obliged to have recourse to the catheter ; but its introduction is very difficult.

* Civiale, *Traité pratique des maladies des organes génito-urinaires*. 3rd edition. Paris, 1858-60.

Several days passed in this way, without the action of the bladder being able to overcome the prostatic obstruction. One day I was delayed by an obstetrical case and could not sound my patient ; he waited in awful suffering. Finally, not being able to wait any longer, he sent for another physician, but catheterism had become so difficult that he could not penetrate to the bladder.

When I arrived I found the patient with a violent chill ; a lacerating pain had declared itself suddenly in the kidneys. I introduced my catheter in haste, and drew with it almost pure blood ; then, every half-hour it became necessary to renew the operation, which brought nothing but blood. To the chill had succeeded a very small and desperately frequent pulse ; cold sweats ; death in twenty-four hours.

I made a *post mortem* examination. One of the ureters was dilated enough to admit the thumb ; the kidney on the same side was ruptured by the accumulation of the urine in the ureters ; it was this laceration which, in reaching the large vessels of the renal parenchyma, had given rise to the hæmorrhage which proved so rapidly mortal. The examination of the bladder exhibited behind its sphincter a sort of valve, formed by the lesser lobe

of the prostate, which had become the seat of a severe hypertrophy ; it was this accidental valve which prevented the emission of the urine.

I have seen several old men in whom, under similar circumstances, after frequent retention of urine, the bladder had shrunk, forming a hard tumor above the pubis. The urine had succeeded in forcing an abnormal passage through the perineum ; urinary abscess, followed by fistula. They all died of exhaustion, caused by bed sores over the sacrum.

All these men had been very dissipated, and had only abandoned their habits on the invasion of the disease.

CASE LXII.—M. X—— suffered from an almost constant desire to urinate. Having adopted the idea of leaving an india-rubber sound in the bladder, because catheterism was too painful, it happened that an abscess formed between the bladder and the rectum, opening a communication between these two cavities, and that the extremity of the sound penetrated the intestine and provoked its expulsion with the fœces. One morning the patient, on awaking, noticed that the end of the catheter, which had projected from the penis, had disappeared ; he

in vain looked for it in his bed ; in the course of the day, when having a stool, he felt it pass through the anus.

§ III.—*Impotence.*

The habit of frauds induces premature impotence.*

I have seen men still young bitterly regret their misfortune in having wasted their youth and virility in contraband pleasures. They were following in vain all sorts of treatments to revive this vital fire which they had prematurely extinguished. They were in some instances bachelors, tired of a life of debauchery, and thinking of uniting in the bonds of matrimony to terminate a dissipated career. But at the time when they were dreaming about the joys of a family, the delights of paternity, they discovered that their genital power was exhausted. Their life was poisoned, and they fell into a sad melancholy.

* Roubaud, *Traité de l'impuissance et de la stérilité*. Paris, 1855. 2 vols. 8vo.

ARTICLE III.

GENERAL ACCIDENTS COMMON TO BOTH SEXES.

§ I.—*Nervous System.*

The nerves are very deeply affected by the practice of genesiac frauds.

CASE LXIII.—A husband came to ask me how it was possible that his wife, though apparently very cold, could be affected by his approaches to such an extent, as to be the next day in a state of languor, and suffer from pains in her legs, which interfered very much with her work.

CASE LXIV.—Another man often consulted me for his wife, in whom sexual approaches caused violent fits, especially a state of syncope, of lethargy, which had sometimes alarmed him very much.

CASE LXV.—A young man of very good education, gifted with delicate sentiments, and who had been led into the practice of frauds by a mistress, told me that after these fraudulent relations he felt confused, humiliated, as if he had committed an infanticide.

If the following physiological axiom can be applied to man, "*omne animal post coitum triste*," it must be above all after a fraudulent connection.

The super-excitation of the nervous system by the practice of frauds, may be the cause of two dreadful diseases, *Nymphomania* and *Satyriasis*. This sort of affection is fortunately very rare; however, I have seen several cases which I will report, because they have terminated in a deplorable way.

CASE LXVI.—Unmarried woman, aged twenty. She is most violently enamored of a lover, who trains her to all the fraudulent artifices of libertinism. The pupil very soon surpasses the teacher; the venereal orgasm rises in her to such a high degree, that she is constantly importuning him, and that in the paroxysm of her passion she gives herself up to all the disordered motions of a bacchante. Her lover is almost afraid of her. He begins to feel uneasy about these frequent and protracted connections; he is exhausted, attenuated, while his mistress—as insatiable as Messalina coming from the lupanars, where she had been to gratify her passions—*et lassata viris, necdum satiata, recessit*.

Nymphomania can alone explain the genesiac super-excitation, of which this girl has given me an example.

“ C'est Vénus tout entière à sa proie attachée.” *

Her lover after having used all that his ingenuity could devise in the way of subterfuges or expedients to get rid of her adroitly, discovered that all these attempts were useless. He was on his side a regular “Don Juan.” Annoyed by the importunities of this girl, he told her one day very abruptly that he should not see her any more. That day she came to see me with a very natural manner, pretending that she was sent by her father, and asked me for a prescription to get some arsenic to kill some rats who were committing great depredations in their house ; I gave it to her.

That same afternoon I was called to see this girl, whom I found in a very pitiful state ; pulse miserable ; cold sweats ; vomiting. I understood immediately what use she had made of her arsenic. As she had taken the whole dose, she died in the evening.

Her lover, to whom I owe all the details previous to the poisoning, was very much affected by her

* Racine,—*Phèdre*.

lamentable death. "Do not fail," said he, "to publish some day this dreadful story, in order to show to what misfortunes a man exposes himself in exciting passions in those fiery temperaments in which, when once started, the fire does not stop until all is consumed."

No one, except himself, suspected what was the cause of her death. As we were in the hottest part of summer, and cholera existed at several points of the East, I declared that she had died of an attack of cholera.

In other instances, the sexual instinct, excited in woman to the point of nymphomania, may lead her into another very deplorable excess.

CASE LXVII.—A young girl, whose lover had super-excited the sexual instinct to a high degree, by all sorts of fraudulent and erotic procedures, fell into a state of nymphomania, which at all hours of the day and night made her look for her lover. But this young girl was naturally timid, and understanding how improper were her advances, she addicted herself to drinking in order to fortify her courage by a beginning of ebriety. She continued to excite every day this state of alcoholism, which, at the end of a few months, provoked a sub-acute

gastro-enteritis, of which she died very rapidly. A characteristic of the disease was a hæmorrhage, so abundant that it soon exhausted her.

In the man these excesses may produce *satyriasis*.

CASE LXVIII.—I have attended two strong men in the vigor of their prime, who were not leaving any rest, night and day, one to his wife, the other to his mistress. These two women were worn out, extremely thin, gastralgic and neuropathic. They often used to complain to me that they could not stand it, that they had to bear fraudulent approaches ten to twelve times in twenty-four hours. It was in vain that I made to these men the most severe remonstrances ; they did not heed my advice. By a strange coincidence both were attacked with epileptiform convulsions ; but this trouble did not check them, on the contrary, while under the influence of this violent complication, and while their mental faculties were becoming impaired, the instinct of the brute obtained more and more power over them.

The oldest fell into a condition of dementia ; he died of a general paralysis.

The other had so seriously weakened two mistresses whom he had kept successively, that they

left him, feeling that they could not endure him any longer without great injury to their health. These women avoided him like a wild beast ; and if this man did not himself succumb on the battlefield of sexual frauds, it is because the battle ended for the want of soldiers.

Both these men have been taken with their fits during coition. The women were so greatly disturbed thereby, that I have several times been sent for to see them. These two unfortunate creatures inspired me with the deepest compassion.

CASE LXIX.—Young man, aged twenty-eight. Epileptic, he attributed his disease to particular circumstances, which allowed him to have with his mistress only fraudulent and standing connections. He used to have frequent and always fraudulent intercourse with her. It is after having abused these irregular connections, which at their conclusion left him, as he said, with a *great sense of emptiness in the brain*, that he was seized during the act with his first attack of epilepsy.

When men who abandon themselves to dissipation, thanks to the facilities afforded to them by genesiac frauds, are forced at the same time to have their minds busy to satisfy the exigencies of a

profession which requires a great deal of study, they often experience severe cephalalgia, which may have the most severe consequences.

CASE LXX.—A man with whom I had old relations of intimacy, has made me his entire confidence about the mysteries of one part of his life, during which he committed great abuses in relation to genital frauds. He narrowly escaped dying from these excesses. It was at the end of a long and painful sickness that he bade an eternal farewell to the life of dissipation which he had led; and he begged me to make his story known some day, in order that it might be an example and a lesson to those who might be tempted to fall into the same disorders.

He was thirty-five years old. Until the age of thirty he had lived very quietly, applying all his faculties to serious labors, to the exercise of functions he was filling with a scrupulous exactness.

At thirty, particular circumstances led him into an intimate acquaintance with the nymphomaniac young girl we spoke of in case LXVI. The facility with which he had subdued her virtue, gave him a taste for those sorts of conquests. He was fine-looking, graceful, rich, and witty. He therefore

found few women inaccessible to his advances. Finding pleasure in the seduction of all those who were within his reach, and who had the misfortune to please him, he became quite redoubtable as a Don Juan. But as his first mistress did not abandon him, though he procured new ones, he finally succeeded in having a sort of harem composed of five women or girls, all pretty, young, and passionate. He was conducting his intrigues so adroitly and with so much discretion, that each of his inamoratas was unaware that she had any rivals, or, at most, entertained only vague suspicions of their existence. Though this sultan of a novel sort economized his forces as much as possible, still, as his odalisks were not his slaves, but women who had given themselves freely to him, and were, as they supposed, entitled to the rights this voluntary sacrifice had created in their favor, hardly a day passed but what he was obliged to satisfy one or more of them.

His health, though very robust, could not stand it. He was taken with such violent cephalalgias that all kinds of mental work had become impossible to him.

He made up his mind to confide to me his painful situation. I advised him to travel.

He goes abroad. At the end of one month he writes to me that he is coming back, because he is suffering greatly. He soon arrives and sends for me. I find him attacked with a very acute inflammation of the bowels. What was the etiology of this disease? He said, that in the beginning of his journey, he had noticed that when taking his meals, the more he filled his stomach, the less pain he had in the head. This circumstance, and the multiplicity of dishes given in hotels, caused him to eat three times as much as he was accustomed to. This excess of alimentation, these laborious digestions, of which he had not the habit, had tired beyond measure the digestive organs, and these organs had manifested their revolt by an intense inflammation. The sickness was long and severe. The fortieth day the patient was in such a state of weakness, that his end appeared to be very near at hand. However, he had the good fortune to recover.

Such a cruel experience was not lost upon him. He broke off completely with women, and now lives as continent as a trappist, and is perfectly healthy.

Sometimes sexual frauds so greatly fatigue the spinal cord, that it is in that part of the nervous system that the serious and painful troubles are seen.

But the excesses I am combatting act principally upon the nervous centres, and produce the most painful neuroses.

CASE LXXI.—Man aged fifty. Of a brilliant and strong organisation, which properly conducted, would have probably been the source of great and noble works. But unfortunately this man had been thrown by circumstances in the midst of a circle wherein is led *une vie Régence*. He had fallen into the hands of those dangerous women, complete Circes, who are possessed of the dire gift of transforming men into beasts. He flung himself blindly into debauchery without the least reserve, abusing the faculties with which he was endowed in running from conquest to conquest; always practising sexual frauds in order not to compromise the women, and to save himself the annoyance of irregular paternity. These excesses were supported for several years; then the digestive functions became impaired, because, in order to sustain his strength, and to satisfy his debaucheries, he used a more copious and stimulant fare than his constitution could bear.

He was attacked with agonizing gastric cramps. After gastric disorders came hypochondria and neuropathic affections of all kinds. He had dread-

ful nights ; in the midst of his wakefulness erotic images haunted him, and dominated him so imperiously, that he had to go out to see one of his mistresses. But he assured me that on his return home he felt so ashamed of himself, he experienced such a *tædium vitæ*, that if it had not been for fear of dishonoring his family he would have committed suicide. Finally, this man fell into a complete dementia, with accesses of mania furiosa, during which his imagination was haunted by female spectres, against which he fought with frenzy.

I must record a remark he made to me in the beginning of his sickness, because it connects directly with the subject of which I am treating. He told me, spontaneously, without being questioned by me, that what was making him most nervous, was the necessity he was under of having fraudulent connections with most of his mistresses. He had been struck by this : That with those with whom he had regular connections he was much less enervated.

CASE LXXII.—Man aged forty-nine. He is very nervous, and very intelligent. Wealthy, and having the most ardent passions, he gave himself up to great excesses with women. But, as he says

himself, he has *ruined his nerves* with them in this respect: that in sexual intercourse he much preferred the *preliminaries to the conclusion*; it was his own expression. He meant that he never consummated the generative act, and sought, above all, those refinements of debauchery in which duration is extended as much as possible, and which exhaust the nervous system much more than regular coition.

At this time this man is in the highest degree neuropathic and lypemaniac, because all the physicians whom he has consulted have forbidden him indulgence with women, and thus placed between the passion which constantly pursues him, and the fear of seriously injuring his health, he finds himself, with his immense wealth, the most unfortunate of men. Ideas of suicide often come to his mind. In the middle of his wakeful nights, the evil spirit of luxury torments him with its most terrible attacks. Then he rushes about the house like a madman, and comes early in the morning to ask me, almost with tears in his eyes, *if I can allow him a woman only once a week!*

Nervous disorders are not always so numerous as in the preceding observations. They stop some-

times at a simple depression of the nervous system, like that which often follows non-fraudulent connections. But the nervous prostration must be generally greater after fraudulent coition, because the nervous system is more excited and the action longer. J. J. Rousseau probably had recourse to it with Mme. Warrens, since later, when he had children by Theresa, he put them in the asylum.

Thus, *apropos* of Mme. Warrens, he expresses in these terms the secret disappointment which followed possession: "I found myself for the first time in the arms of a woman, and a woman whom I adored. Was I happy? No. I tasted the pleasure; but I know not what invincible sadness was poisoning its charms. I felt as if I had committed an incest. Two or three times, in pressing her with transport in my arms, I deluged her breast with my tears." *

CASE LXXIII.—Young man, aged twenty-two. His eyes are very bright. Married for five months, he practices conjugal frauds.

Seminal discharges during his sleep; lypemania; *tædium vitæ*; general neuropathy.

* J. J. Rousseau,—*Confessions*.

I enjoin him not to have any more fraudulent connections ; saying that when he shall have a child, its presence will dissipate the dark clouds which hang over him, and will completely change his existence. I gave no other prescription.

Some time after, he came to thank me, saying that he had followed my advice, and that his sad thoughts vanished at the sight of his pregnant wife, at the idea that she was going to have a child. This hope has awakened anticipations of all sorts in his mind ; he thinks that his child will create in him new duties, open to him a new life ; all this fixes his mind, prevents its concentration upon himself, and banishes from it the melancholy which darkened his existence.

Very frequently women have come to consult me for painful nervous affections, because their fraudulent husbands did not satisfy completely the powerful instinct of maternity so well developed in a great number of them.

In treating such cases, I have usually advised conception, and found, later on, that my prescription was completely successful. Sometimes women who submit with reluctance to the fraudulent manœuvres of their husbands, become neuropathic on account

of the disgust excited in them by unnatural practices.

I have seen women of exquisite delicacy of sentiments, whose health was impaired on account of the painful impression such conduct on the part of their husbands had caused them.

CASE LXXIV.—Woman aged twenty-five. She presents the delicate features, the expression of virginal candor, which are admired in the Madonnas of the Italian school. She comes to consult me for a painful feeling; a general neuropathy of which she cannot, or rather dares not, tell me the cause. I guess it; she has been married for three years, has no children, and I know that her family forced her to marry against her will a man, ugly, bestial, and who has no instincts higher than those of a brute. I question her concerning her relations with her husband; she blushes, and, pressed by my demands, she at last confesses that he has never had with her any complete, regular connections; that he has the most depraved inclinations, which inspire her with the greatest disgust; that she avoids him as much as possible, and that he, resenting her delicacy, satisfies alone his obscene instincts, without regard to her presence. I never heard anything

more heart-rending than the narration of these turpitudes, made by this sweet and beautiful creature, whom they rendered so miserable.

CASE LXXV.—A pretty woman, aged thirty. She was sacrificed, like the last patient, by covetous parents to a dissipated old man. Very soon her freshness disappears, her beauty fades. She is supposed to be pregnant ; but nothing of that kind exists. She comes to consult me for certain neuro-pathic troubles by which she is tortured. As soon as I speak about her husband, she bursts into tears. This man, whose hideous face I knew, reminded me every time I met him of those Roman medals representing the hard and bestial type of Otho and Vitellus.

Swinishly epicurean, this man did not hesitate to profane his wife's delicate nature, and to abuse his marital authority, by subjecting her to every species of defilement, without ever giving her hopes of the joys of maternity.

The night of her marriage, he had declared to her that he would not be annoyed with the cries of a child.

I try all in my power to console her, and engage to read her husband a severe lesson. He made me

the finest promises ; but he was a hypocrite—he did not keep them. A short time afterwards, I am called in haste to the aid of the unfortunate woman, who suddenly, and after having been out in the morning in her ordinary state of health, appeared to be in the death agony.

I find her, in fact, expiring. I am struck with the alteration marked on her lips ; they look as if they had been burned. I open her mouth, and see all over it the traces of a corrosive substance. I seize one arm to feel the pulse ; her fingers are clasped on a vial half-full of a slightly brownish liquid. I throw a little of it on a marble slab ; it produces effervescence. During this experiment the woman draws her last breath.

I go to the druggist and learn that two hours before, this woman came to buy some sulphuric acid for her husband, who wanted it to clean a barrel.

Instead of accidents of a purely nervous character, fraudulent manœuvres, like all venereal excesses, by precipitating the motions of the heart, and violently propelling the blood towards the brain, may provoke attacks of apoplexy.

CASE LXXVI.—I was called in the middle of the night to see a girl, who was taken with a violent

nervous attack. It was the first time, and her parents were so much the more surprised, inasmuch as they did not know to what cause to attribute it. I knew that this girl, who was poor, was reputed to be the mistress of an old gentleman noted for his libertinism. I sent the parents away under some pretext, and alone with the patient, I summoned her to tell me what had happened. She then informed me, that while she had her lover in her arms, suddenly all motion on his part had ceased ; his eyes turned ; a phrase just begun had expired on his lips. She calls him ; she cries ; no answer ; she discovers that in her arms she has only a corpse ; she pushes it away, and takes to flight. On her arrival home she was taken with this nervous attack.

The next day, early in the morning, I am sent for to see M. X——, who has been found dead in his bed. I certify the cause of death, and very soon the rumor is spread that M. X—— died, *during his sleep*, of apoplexy.

I have seen another case, quite analogous, in which the victim survived, unconscious and hemiplegic for several days.

CASE LXXVII.—Man aged fifty-six ; excessively libertinous. He was subject to drowsiness and

vertigo, for which he had consulted me. Knowing his perverse inclinations, I had prescribed continence to him ; but, incorrigible Lovelace, he did not follow my advice, and found death where he was seeking pleasure. The attack took him in the midst of his debauched manœuvres.

§ II.—*Circulation.*

Venereal excesses super-excite very intensely the heart, above all in very impressible organizations.

The simplest, the most natural junction of the sexes often provokes quick palpitations.

CASE LXXVIII. — Woman aged twenty-six. She is delicate, very sensitive ; married for three years, she has no children.

She attributes her sterility to intolerable palpitations, which almost suffocate her every time she has a connection with her husband, and which disturb her in the act. Examination of the heart, however, does not indicate any organic lesion.

The history is well known of the prostitute who died of a rupture of the heart, while in the arms of a man.

CASE LXXIX. — A young unmarried woman. She was endowed with such a passionate temperament, that it almost amounted to nymphomania.

She confessed that since she was eleven years old, she had addicted herself to solitary vice, which had become such an imperious necessity that she indulged in it three or four times in twenty-four hours. This habit had exalted in her to the highest degree the sexual instinct.

At thirty, she had two lovers. Instead of waiting for their caresses, she did not hesitate very often to provoke them. The venereal orgasm was sometimes so intense, that she pressed her heart with both hands, feeling as if it were about to burst.

She came to consult me for palpitations of the heart, which began to come regularly and made her uneasy. Percussion and auscultation did not indicate anything organic. I told her that these palpitations were nervous, and that the best remedy was to avoid the circumstances which provoked them. But, urged by the ardor of her passions, she did not follow my advice. The palpitations increased. Six months after, I was called to see her ; I found her the prey of a frightful orthopnœa ; beatings of the heart tumultuous and irregular.

Phlebotomy eased her immediately. She had an endo-pericarditis. One of her lovers, whom I met by chance, told me that this suffocation had taken her in his arms ; he stated to me confidentially that she was extremely libidinous.

So cruel an experience did not correct her.

Though the beatings of the heart and the dyspnœa had become habitual, an irresistible passion continually impelled her to seek these ardent sensations which were killing her. As she belonged to a family whose morals were very severe, she entertained a great dread of becoming pregnant, and enjoined upon her lovers the most scrupulous adherence to sexual frauds. The result was that her connections with them consisted in artifices of all kinds intended to increase and prolong the venereal orgasm ; to intensify those cynic spasms whose action on the heart was so pernicious.

One day I was summoned in haste to her assistance, on the plea that she was dying. I found her unconscious. The whole of one side was deprived of motion and sensibility. The disorders of the heart had impeded the cerebral circulation, so as to determine a hæmorrhage. She died the next day.

CASE LXXX.—Woman aged forty-eight ; unmarried. She had led a dissolute life, having sometimes several fraudulent lovers at once. She confessed that since her youth the venereal orgasm provoked in her so great a super-excitation of the heart, that for a long time, even after the accomplishment of the act, she remarked such a frequency of the pulse that it was almost impossible to count it.

I witnessed her death from an organic affection of the heart.

CASE LXXXI.—Woman aged thirty-four. Married for sixteen years ; had a child in the beginning, then uninterrupted frauds.

She complains that she cannot experience the approaches of her husband, without having immediately painful palpitations of the heart and vertigo. She has also constant pains in the hypogastrium and the lumbar region. I do not find anything in the heart, but pursuing my examination towards the lower part of the abdomen, as soon as I press a little on that region, the patient is taken with violent palpitation and painful vertigo. To so great an extent does the impression received by the genital apparatus, wearied by fifteen years of

frauds, re-act sympathetically upon the central organ of circulation.

CASE LXXXII.—Young man, aged twenty-four ; very intelligent. Of a very ardent temperament, he had the misfortune to make the acquaintance of a girl more passionate than himself. He had such palpitations after fraudulent connections with her, that I was called one day to see him in that condition. He was pale ; a cold sweat running down his face ; the pulse offered only such a disorderly trembling, that it was impossible to detect a single pulsation.

I advised them both to separate ; but they had not the courage to do so. The disease of the heart soon forced the young man to lie in bed, where, after a long illness, he died with orthopnœa and anasarca.

CASE LXXXIII.—An old soldier, who, though over sixty years of age, continued to gratify his taste for dissipation.

He complains of dyspnœa and palpitations, which are felt especially after coition. He has a servant-mistress, with whom he has had fraudulent connections for a long time.

I found an hypertrophy of the heart already advanced, and knowing his habits, I forbade him any sexual intercourse. “You are perfectly right, doctor,” said he, “every time I see a woman my palpitation increases as much as to suffocate me ; but if I must live without women, I prefer to die.”

A few days afterwards, the report of a fire-arm was heard in his house ; he had blown out his brains. As he was breathing yet, I was sent for, but when I arrived he was dead. One of his friends told me that the girl with whom he satisfied his superannuated passion, confessed that a very few moments before the suicide, he had attempted to caress her, but that a violent palpitation having prevented him satisfying himself, he went out of the room in a state of desperation ; a few instants afterwards the fatal detonation was heard.

§ III.—*Organs of Respiration.*

The enjoyments of love propel the blood very actively towards the lungs.

CASE LXXXIV.—Man of extremely ardent temperament; father and mother asthmatic; already emphysematous himself at thirty-five.

After each night of dissipation he felt his usual oppression rise to a high degree, almost to suffocation. His parents, who had led a regular life, lived to the age of eighty years. He died at forty-five of pulmonary congestion, after a journey he made with one of his mistresses, whom he enervated so much by his fraudulent manœuvres, that she was for a long while under my care for certain neuropathic troubles which had very much injured her health.

CASE LXXXV.—Young man, aged twenty-two. No phthisical tendency.

During a night of carnival he had several fraudulent connections with his mistress, and suddenly, during coition, was seized with suffocation and paroxysms of coughing; blood escaped from his mouth so freely as to deluge his mistress' face.

He never recovered from this hæmoptysis, and he died consumptive after lingering two or three years.

CASE LXXXVI.—Man of very great strength; veteran, fifty-two years old.

Cough; dyspnœa; fever, of which he takes no notice, depending upon his robust constitution. Finally he is obliged to lie in bed. I am called to examine him, and find him consumptive. He was nursed by a young girl of a powerful organization,

with whom he had lived maritally for several years, but always taking precautions to have no children. When the disease had arrived at its last stage, he said to me on many occasions, pointing to his chambermaid: "*It is she who has killed me.*"

Phthisical patients are generally very lascivious. The malady gives rise to a general excitation of the whole system.* This erethism is always seen in the first stage of pulmonary tuberculosis.

It has happened to me several times to learn that a person, whom I had examined and found in the first stage of phthisis, was just married.

CASE LXXXVII.—Man aged forty, whose sister had died of consumption two years before.

On examining his chest, I found all the signs of crude tubercles, with even a slight softening at the apices of both lungs.

Three days subsequently, I learned that he had just married a young wife. About six weeks afterward, I saw him in bed with fever; the summit of the lungs is disorganised; gurgling in all parts. The disease assumes a galloping course, and he passes very soon into the last stage. Only a week

* Fonssagrives, *Thérapeutique de la phthisie pulmonaire*. Paris, 1866.

before his death, his wife asked me if it was not dangerous for her to submit to his caresses, as he was constantly desirous of sexual gratification; adding that she yielded only with the greatest apprehension and the deepest disgust.

CASE LXXXVIII.—A friend came to consult me to know if he could get married, notwithstanding a cough he had had for some time.

I found some dulness on percussion at the apices, and a *souffle rude*; but in order not to frighten him too much, I contented myself with advising him to postpone the ceremony until his cough was well; a short time afterwards, however, I heard that he was going to be married. Seven months after his marriage I was called to see him; his lungs were completely disorganized. He admitted then that he had not depended sufficiently upon my advice. “But,” said he, “I was hurried away by passion, and could not believe that a man seriously ill could experience such ardor.”

He had practised fraudulent connection with his young wife, and had known no limit in his sexual intercourse.

One year after his death, his widow took a second husband, to my great surprise, for I had heard sev-

eral times a suspicious cough issue from her chest. Her cheeks were injected ; her blood was heated by the same fever which carried off her former husband. The second, like the first, committed sexual frauds. She died in ten months after her marriage.

I have known delicate women who were attacked with hæmoptysis, after fraudulent connections whose duration had been long, and had strongly congested the lungs. Several have even been obliged to interrupt suddenly sexual intercourse, because a sense of suffocation, followed by violent cough, provoked hæmoptysis.

CASE LXXXIX.—A very pretty woman aged twenty-four.

Married for three years, without children, her husband is one of those knights-errant who roam from town to town.

Called to attend her, I find a phthisis passing from the first to the second stage. Seeing with what an admirable organization nature had endowed her, I ask her in presence of her husband, how it is that they have had no issue ; I further say that her health would probably have been improved if she had had one or two children. She remains silent, lowers her eyes, and I think I see tears upon her lids. The

husband, a stout, rubicund man with an egotistical physiognomy, takes the floor immediately to throw in my face this ignoble answer :

“Ah ! sir, you are evidently ignorant that in real life children are only encumbrances.”

At these words the patient burst into tears ; she was suffocated by emotion, and was seized with such a paroxysm of coughing, that she began to spit blood by the mouthful.

§ IV.—*Digestive System.*

The stomach is probably, of all the organs, the one which has the most intimate sympathy with the genitals. The vitality of the generative organs finds its aliment in good nutrition : “ *Absque Cerere, friget Venus.*”* It is not astonishing that all the disorders provoked by frauds in the organs of reproduction may have a serious influence upon the stomach. It is in such conditions that we see the most painful gastralgias, the most varied neuroses of the stomach.

CASE XC.—Woman aged thirty-two.

* *L'Ecole de Salerne* ; Trad. Meaux St. Marc. Paris, 1861.

Separated from her husband for a long time, she replaced him by fraudulent lovers.

This woman is very nervous ; of dark complexion ; exceedingly lascivious ; affected with hysteria. In her thin pale face glitter a pair of flashing black eyes. Her stomach was so excited, especially after nights of debauchery, that to quiet it she had to eat constantly.

CASE XCI.—A married couple present themselves before me with pale and haggard faces.

The woman is suffering from a very painful gastralgia.

The husband complains of all sorts of troubles, which may be summed up in a very distressing hypochondriasis.

They both complain of leading a miserable life. They are still quite young ; the man is thirty, and the woman twenty-six. Married for nine years, they had several children very promptly ; later, they began to employ fraudulent stratagems : both being very passionate, they have abused these without limitation.

Nevertheless—and I would call attention to this circumstance, as indicating how physicians may be misled by false answers from patients whose lips are

sealed by a sense of shame from making painful avowals—on my first questioning the husband concerning conjugal frauds, he replied unhesitatingly in the negative, and protested even against such a suspicion. His provoked wife, however, cast in his teeth these two words: “You lie;” and then declared that I had put my finger upon the wound, and that she had for some time noticed that she had gastric pains, especially after fraudulent connection.

I then prescribed conception, and, after the woman should become pregnant, abstinence. Eight months afterwards I met them. They both looked very well; their physiognomy was quite changed; the abdomen of the woman indicated all the visible signs of a pregnancy approaching term.

The physician must then mistrust very much such affirmations from the mouths of husbands. They are disposed to deny, because in the employment of frauds they are generally the most guilty parties.

The fatigue and suffering of the uterus so easily disturb the stomach, that I have seen women in whom the least pressure upon the hypogastrium provoked nausea and vomiting.

Sometimes it is not necessary that the fraudulent connections be frequent in order to determine symptoms so painful as to call for a physician's intervention.

CASE XCII.—Another married couple come to consult me on account of various disturbances in their health.

Married for eight months, they have no child.

The husband complains of a severe gastralgia. The wife, on the other hand, suffers from a profuse and debilitating leucorrhœa ; burning in the hypogastrium so intense that it seems to her as if there were a fire in her abdomen ; digestion painful, with frequent vomiting after meals. The most distressing symptom in both cases is the gastric disturbance. They confess that if they are childless it is because, in addition to being very moderate in their intercourse, they *have done all in their power to avoid having any*.

I urge them to reform in that respect, promising them that, when they shall have children, or even when the woman shall become pregnant, their digestion will improve. In fact, I saw them the following year by the side of a cradle, and they thanked me very much for the good advice I had given them.

The functions of the stomach being frequently disturbed by sexual frauds, the result is that in subjects in whom such derangements occur the function of nutrition diminishes ; corpulence disappears ; a dark ring encircles the eyes, which are sunken in ; the plumpness of youth is replaced by the emaciation of an anticipated old age.

I have attended girls whom fraudulent lovers had thus withered prematurely.

CASE XCIII.—An unmarried woman ; had led up to the age of forty-one this wretched life ; she had been emaciated by it so much that she was scarcely more than skin and bones. At this advanced age, her lover forgets himself one day ; she becomes pregnant. Under the influence of pregnancy, she recovers freshness and rotundity.

CASE XCIV.—I have attended two men who had been reduced to a state of extreme exhaustion by fraudulent excesses, without disturbance of any essential function. They complained of a sinking sensation in the thorax and the whole body ; the ordinary secretions were perverted, the perspiration requisite for health was suppressed. They ate inordinately to satisfy the feeling of emptiness which was so painful to them ; and, after meals, suffered

from tension of the stomach, which inspired them with the saddest ideas: they were hypochondriac, melancholic, miserable.

CHAPTER II.

INDIRECT FRAUDS.

Thus far, all the facts I have set forth relate to the species of frauds most commonly practiced; those which the book of Genesis pronounces criminal in Onan, and which consist in the emission of the seminal fluid outside of the genitals of a woman still young, and capable of conceiving after a more or less complete and regular copulation. I have given to this sort of manœuvres the name of *direct* frauds. They are entirely distinct from those of which I am about to speak, and which I have designated under the title of *indirect* frauds.

These are practiced chiefly in two ways :

Either the conjunction of the sexes is complete and normal, but from particular circumstances, such as the menopause, irremediable sterility, etc., conception is impossible ;

Or sexual connection takes place through irregular channels, as the mouth, the anus ; or by means of reciprocal manual pollution, *manus stuprum*.

ARTICLE I.

COITION WITH THE CONDOM.

A *modus operandi* very prevalent among libidinous men, to satisfy their inclinations without incurring the annoyance of a pregnancy, consists in the use of the condom.

But this expedient does not offer a very reliable security, as I have shown (case LX) in an instance which was very near becoming tragical.

ARTICLE II.

COITION AFTER MENOPAUSIS.

Sexual intercourse with women who have passed the grand climacteric must be regarded as fraudulent, that is to say, as an unnatural employment of the genital organs.

Nature prescribes to them the cessation of sexual functions by putting a term to menstruation.*

CASE XCV.—Woman aged sixty-six. Husband dead for a year ; having had rather frequent con-

* Raciborski, *Traité de la menstruation*, Paris, 1868.

nections with her until his last illness ; of late, they had become more painful than before.

Since the death of her husband, she has felt much itching, and intolerable pains in the vulva, with serous and bloody discharge. Scirrhus occupying the interior of the vulva and part of the labia majora. I excised all the affected tissues, even those which were only doubtful ; and the patient returned to her occupations.

But five or six months afterwards, the disease reappears again in the vagina, invades it rapidly and contracts it so much that it is impossible to feel the os tinæ. She died in the most cruel suffering.

CASE XCVI.—Woman aged fifty-four.

Scirrhus had involved only one half of the vulva. In this case I was more fortunate ; the operation was not followed by a relapse.

This woman, like the preceding one, attributed her disease to the too frequent approaches of her husband, who, though fifty-eight years old, was very strong and vigorous.

CASE XCVII.—Woman aged fifty-four.

Scirrhus of the vulva. The patient objects to its ablation. It extends to the bladder and rectum, and kills her after the most awful sufferings.

This woman in her severe paroxysms of pain did not hesitate in the presence of strangers to accuse her husband of being the author of her evils.

Degenerescences of the generative apparatus in the woman who has passed the menopause, occur still more frequently when the lover or the husband is much younger than she ; that is to say, when a woman for whom the change of life ought to have been a salutary warning, has had the imprudence to yield herself to the lasciviousness of a man led by disordered passion or shameful interest,

CASE XCVIII.—Woman aged fifty-four.

Change of life at fifty-one. Married for three years to an ex-soldier ten years younger than herself. Scirrhus of the uterus, very painful, having extended to the vagina, which was shrunk and narrowed.

She stated that her husband was *too young for her, and that he made her endure martyrdom.*

CASE XCIX.—Woman aged sixty-two.

After having had, before her marriage, frequent and fraudulent connections with lovers, she married at fifty-six, four years after the menopause, from a sordid wish to avoid hiring a servant, a man forty years old, so strong and salacious, that while he was having coition with his wife rather often, I have at-

tended several girls he had engaged for servants, who had sub-acute metritis with profuse leucorrhœa, the result of an exciting diet to which he submitted them, and of fraudulent connections.

At sixty, the woman began to have slight hæmorrhages. The disease made slow progress ; and the womb, the bladder, and the rectum were transformed into a hideous slough, though she did not experience much pain. The lesion which gave her the most trouble was the incontinence of urine, which lasted for the last eight months of her painful existence.

After the death of his wife, the husband married a young woman of delicate sentiments, who did not delay long coming to consult me for uterine troubles caused by the fraudulent manœuvres of her husband.

The conduct of this man with her had inspired her with profound disgust. She finally died of an ataxic form of typhoid fever.

CASE C.—Woman aged fifty-four ; very robust, and a fine type of rustic organization. Husband much younger, very active and very ardent.

After her last confinement, at forty-four years, this woman had had a very intense irritation of the bladder ; vesical tenesmus for nearly a year ; micturition painful.

• Change of life at forty-nine. The husband continues to have intercourse with his wife occasionally, although on each connection she experiences a numb pain at the neck of the bladder, provoking a pressing necessity of urinating.

At fifty-three, the vesical pains are so acute that she can no longer endure the approaches of her husband. Every time the emission of urine is necessary she has dreadful pains.

A very extensive hardness is felt in front of the cervix uteri, at the point corresponding to the neck of the bladder and one-half of the urethra.

This woman dies very rapidly, rather from the acuteness of pains, and the nervous exhaustion which is its consequence, than from the disturbances produced in the organic tissues by the local disease.

I have narrated (CASE XL), the history of the first wife of a man addicted to frauds, who very soon took a second one : here is the way in which her life terminated.

CASE CI.—Woman aged fifty.

She is very fresh looking yet, though her change of life occurred three or four years ago. She is of a very cold disposition.

Her husband tired her so much that she left him, but he forced her to return home. Her mind then became much excited. She comes to ask me if she cannot prosecute her husband for poisoning her, by putting phosphorus in her food in order to excite in her the *appetite of the flesh*; she has been told that libertines thus used phosphorus. Her healthy appearance quite contradicts her suspicions; but I can not dissuade her from her idea of poisoning; she often comes to recount to me the thousand sensations produced in her by the phosphorus circulating in her veins; she has the strangest hallucinations of the genital sense. Her existence is very miserable; I meet her in the streets with haggard eyes, not knowing whither she goes, and always under the influence of her horrid thoughts.

After all the facts which I have reported, and which exhibit so many unfortunate women as victims of the lubricity of man, one might be tempted to cast in his face an accusation of cruelty which seems to be well deserved. But, often the man is not so culpable as may be supposed. Most women are unwilling to repel the caresses of the man they have in their possession. They prefer to suffer silently, to conceal their pain, rather than to incur

the risk of his having relations with other women. It is in this way that I have frequently seen uterine diseases aggravated. Jealousy or the fear that through infidelity the man be led into other disorders more severe still, induced the woman to dissimulate her pains. It is then for the physician to give the necessary warnings to the husband, which I have done with full success in a case I have lately seen.

CASE CII.—Woman aged forty-six.

Five children. Sterility for twelve years consequent on frauds. Menopausis one year ago.

Husband fifty-two years old, still very active; *too brisk for her*: These are her own words. She complains of great disturbance in the stomach, above all when her husband visits her; it causes her cardiac pains, vomitings, intestinal colics. She comes and begs me to tell her husband to be continent, for she feels that her health cannot stand it.

I gave the husband my advice; he followed it and his wife's health was promptly restored.

CASE CIII.—Woman aged fifty-five.

She married her brother-in-law, a widower since fifteen months, because, though sixty-five years old, she feared that he might disgrace the memory of

her sister by addicting himself to libertinism. He is a little old man, very active, very lubricious, and who has so much excited her by his attempts at defloration, that she has a very intense vulvitis. This husband never could penetrate, on account of the resistance of the hymen, the rigidity of which had been increased by age.

A very advanced age does not preserve women from diseases which one might suppose ought to be observed only in young ones. The physician must always be on his guard in this respect.

CASE CIV.—Woman aged sixty-one.

She is still very fresh looking.

Her husband, of the same age, is yet very vigorous, and her lover is forty-eight. She consults me for a profuse, greenish, tenacious leucorrhœa; vesical tenesmus; nothing organic in the uterus. She begins to declare, even before I had asked her a single question on the subject, *that it cannot be any bad disease.* “*You understand,*” said she, “*at my age it is impossible!*” She saw that I mistrusted her words; and when pressed by somewhat explicit interrogatories, she confessed that she had connection with a lover, and that though she could not tell why he was taking them, she found a box of

pills in his closet ; I asked her to show them to me : they were capsules of copaiba.

ARTICLE III

COITION WITH STERILE WOMEN.

When women are affected by any cause of sterility, excess of coition may lead to more or less severe disorders. If the man be ardent, he exhausts them beyond measure, and insensibly the organs thus superexcited become inflamed. We then see metritis which, in cases of sterility primitively curable, may render it irremediable.

CASE CV.—A young woman, married for a year to a young man, very ardent and not practising frauds.

Sterility ; acute metritis. On digital examination I was struck with the narrowness of the uterine meatus.

As soon as she was cured, I introduced a sponge tent. The opening was dilated, and conception took place a short time after.

CASE CVI.—One of her relations who had had the same troubles on several occasions, encouraged by her example, and afflicted by her own sterility, wanted to submit to the same treatment, since in her

case also the uterine orifice was very narrow. But in this instance dilatation was unsuccessful; undoubtedly, the repeated attacks of metritis had seriously modified the uterine apparatus, and perhaps obstructed the fallopian tubes, rendering conception impossible.

I could give several other cases of sterility, depending upon a malposition of the womb, and beginning to awake serious disorders in this organ, which have disappeared, with the sterility which was their consequence, on the application of treatment appropriate to each variety of deviation, provided that the disorders caused by fruitless and too frequent connections had not altered too deeply the texture of these organs.

These examples show that in cases where a young wife does not become pregnant soon enough, it is unwise to trust to time, which sometimes proves a deceptive reliance.

Instead of fatiguing the organs by immoderate and dangerous exercise, it is necessary to consult a physician early and let him discover the causes of sterility.*

* See Roubaud, *Traité de l'impuissance et de la stérilité*. Paris, 1855, 8 vo.

But if sterility depends upon a cause which it is impossible to remove, and women,—taking advantage of this condition, which protects them against the risk of pregnancy, abandon themselves to the course of their passions, the most serious results may ensue.

CASE CVII.—I have seen three girls who, through a congenital vice of organization, had never menstruated. They were from about twenty to twenty-five years old when they came under my observation. Neither of them presented in the part of the genitals accessible to my examination, any appreciable organic lesion ; the cause existed higher up. Notwithstanding this condition, they were tolerably healthy and vigorous, thanks to frequent phlebotomy.

Two of these girls, of a cold temperament, lived very continently.

The third, the strongest of the three, was very passionate. With her taste for libertinism, she looked upon her position as a privilege, which she abused by leading a disorderly life. She was never without several lovers, and was lascivious to the highest degree with them. After several nights of debauchery, she was taken with a dreadful colic, followed by a severe chill. I found her in cold sweats;

anxious expression ; pulse 150 and feeble. Sudden swelling of the abdomen had occurred, attended with colics and lancinating pains. In the hypogastric region, a little to one side, I discovered a tumor as large as a child's head and very sensitive to pressure.

The state of the patient caused me for some days the greatest anxiety. Several times she seemed to be at the point of death, symptoms of general peritonitis having set in. However, a very active antiphlogistic treatment modified the disorders, and after a long convalescence, she recovered. The tumor decreased slowly, but finally disappeared. What was its nature ? It must have been a hæmatocele.

The extreme superexcitation of the uterine apparatus, induced by a life of continued debauchery, without the designs of nature being ever fulfilled, had, in a girl excessively lubricious, congested these organs to such a degree, that a few large vessels had been ruptured ; from this resulted a hæmorrhage which, instead of escaping through the natural channels, had collected in the tissues.

At other times the sterility is of ovarian origin, caused either by a displacement of the uterus deter-

mined by the development of ovarian tumors, or by the alterations to which these organs have been exposed. I have attended a great number of women attacked by metro-ovaritis, often complicated with peritonitis, due only to excessive coition with husbands or dissipated lovers, who, confident of their sterility, were abusing them beyond measure.

ARTICLE IV.

COITION DURING MENSTRUATION.

Often, men in the habit of fraudulent intercourse, think that they can with impunity have complete connections with women during their courses, and exhaust them very much at that time.

Two inconveniences may result from this :

First ; some women may be impregnated, notwithstanding menstruation ; then the husband and the lover, who do not believe themselves to be the authors of the pregnancy, begin to take umbrage.

Next ; nothing is more common than to see sexual intercourse under such conditions give rise to urethritis in the man, and vaginitis or metritis in the woman.

ARTICLE V.

COITION DURING PREGNANCY AND LACTATION.

When the woman is pregnant, the object of nature is satisfied ; sexual connection becomes useless. Pregnancy, and lactation which is its consequence, ought to bring a salutary rest to venereal appetites ; otherwise these are exalted by habit and exercise ; they fall into the most painful excesses. Man, therefore, ought to take example by the lower animals, which never touch their females during gestation. Animals copulate only when rutting. But less reasonable in that respect than brutes, many men do not regard the pregnancy of their wives ; on the contrary, he who before restrained himself in order to avoid pregnancy, now commits abuses without limitation. The womb being disturbed by such excess, is very liable to be impeded in its work of gestation ; blood flows to it in too great abundance, and causes pains, hæmorrhages, and at last miscarriage.*

Man is then, upon this point, less reasonable than the brutes, and it was with a well founded irony that

* Bouchut, *Hygiène de la première enfance*. 5th edit. Paris, 1867.

Beaumarchais has put these words in the mouth of Antonio : “ *to make love at all times is what distinguishes man from other animals.*”

In this connection may be cited the example of Dionis, whose wife had twenty children, and who boasted of never having stopped his intercourse with her during her pregnancies.

But in my eyes this is only an exception ; and I find much more wisdom in the precept thus phrased by a poetical physician :

Pour conserver le fruit de vos chastes plaisirs,
Reprimez désormais vos amoureux désirs ;
Au feu qui vit en vous un autre feu peut nuire,
Et ce qu’amour a fait, amour peut le détruire.

I am embarrassed in the choice of examples I have to adduce of miscarriages or abortions arising from the source I have spoken of.

CASE CVIII.—Woman aged twenty-six.

Called to see her, I find her four or five months pregnant.

She has had two children.

Profuse hæmorrhage ; pains ; miscarriage in the night.

Examined upon the causes of this accident, she maintains that nothing extraordinary has happened to her ; that she does not know to what cause to

attribute her accident. But one of her neighbors, who had heard her answer, took me aside and told me that the miscarriage might very well have been occasioned by the circumstance that the patient was very passionate, and was all the time after her husband.

Sometimes the painful effects of intemperate approaches during pregnancy, are not felt till after the confinement.

CASE CIX.—Woman aged twenty-eight.

She had, during the last months of a first pregnancy, a sort of nymphomania, which caused her to be incessantly wishing for her husband. She had never felt anything like it, and it appeared so strange to her, seeing herself grow pale and emaciated, that she came to consult me and to confess her passion.

She was delivered a few days after, one month before her time.

After the parturition, which was very easy, she had such a profuse metrorrhagia that she came very near dying. She told me that she had been very unfortunate in having during the last months of her pregnancy that singular inclination. She was convinced that she had attracted the blood too

much towards the womb, and that the miscarriage and the hæmorrhage following it had been the consequence.

ARTICLE VI.

VULVAR COITION.

Many husbands and lovers, for fear of pregnancy, content themselves with incomplete approaches, without penetrating.

I have already quoted one fact which proves the dangers of this practice, since it does not afford a certain guaranty against pregnancy (Cases LVI, LVII and LVIII). But these manœuvres, though very limited, present most of the other inconveniences resulting from frauds with penetration. They super-excite deeply the nervous system and engender neuropathic disorders.

CASE CX. — Woman of small stature, aged twenty-five. Thin, puny, very gastralgie and neuropathic ; childless.

She tells me that her husband has such a large penis, and that she herself is so small, that she never had the courage to let him penetrate, so painful were his attempts. Obligated to remain at the entrance, he practices such manœuvres that her

nerves are very much excited. She says she has a very abundant white discharge ; that she vomits, etc. She was in great distress. She was obliged to leave her husband.

CASE CXI. — Unmarried woman, aged thirty-three.

She is the servant of a bachelor who is very lascivious and obscene ; he became paraplegic from a fall on his back.

Incapable of a sufficient erection to penetrate, he makes all sorts of attempts at the entrance of the genitals, and tires this woman so much that her health fails, and she comes to consult me.

Some time afterwards, I was summoned by law to make a post-mortem examination of this man, who died very suddenly, and with symptoms such as to awaken suspicions concerning the cause of his death.

I found some traces of fine powder of cantharides in his stomach.

His servant was arrested temporarily. She said that this man, having read in a book that cantharides, according to the expression of A. Pare,*

* A. Paré, *Œuvres complètes*; édition J. F. Malgagne. Paris, 1840.

excitaient au deduit venerique, had sent her to buy some, under the pretext that he wanted to put some on a Burgundy plaster to apply to his back for a lumbago. She said she had no doubt what use he intended to make of it. Her story did not dissipate the suspicions resting upon her, but there being no other proof, she was set free.

ARTICLE VII.

RECIPROCAL USE OF THE MANUS STUPRUM.

CASE CXII.—Woman aged thirty.

Emaciated, gastralgie, and neuropathic.

Married at nineteen ; had a child in the beginning, though her husband was practising frauds and did not wish to have any children before a certain time.

Attributing her unexpected pregnancy to the uncertainty of frauds, he was unwilling to employ them any longer ; but, being of a very lubricious nature, he exercised upon his wife, with his fingers, such frequent and various manœuvres that he determined in her a nervous erethism raised to the most painful general neuropathy.

As to him, when he was superexcited by the sight of the venereal orgasm pushed in his wife to the last

limit, he either satisfied himself, or obliged her to render him this ignoble service.

This woman's health was very much impaired, and her sufferings were evidently caused by the practices of her husband ; since, on his being obliged to absent himself in traveling for several months, she rapidly recovered.

ARTICLE VIII.

APPLICATION OF THE TONGUE AND LIPS.

Instead of a manual pollution, certain men, with the view of provoking a very intense venereal orgasm in the woman, have recourse to an excitation determined by the application of the extremity of the tongue and lips.*

I have seen this kind of frauds produce great enervation in women.

CASE CXIII.—Young woman aged eighteen.

Married at sixteen, and having had a child immediately. She was of rare beauty, and when I met her with her infant in her arms, she reminded me of the Madonnas I had admired in the museums and churches of Italy. - Three years after her marriage,

* A. Tardieu ; *Etude médico-légale sur les attentats aux mœurs*. Paris, 1866. 5th Edit.

she grew pale, and withered like a flower whose root is attacked by a worm. She came to consult me, complaining of pains everywhere, but above all of gastralgia.

I reminded her that I had seen her beautiful and in flourishing health while she was nursing her child, and asked her why she did not have a second one. She blushed ; I said to her that undoubtedly her husband was using frauds, but that he was wrong ; and that a second pregnancy was necessary to her health. She remained silent, and her reticence led me to suspect something more than ordinary frauds. The same day I met one of her intimate friends and questioned her. She revealed to me that the husband had the fatal habit of applying the tongue and lips to his wife's genitals to provoke in her a venereal orgasm, which became so intense that this woman often told her friend : "*He enervates me too much ; my health will not stand it.*"

I found an occasion to tell the husband that a pregnancy would cure his wife ; he followed my advice, and his wife, being pregnant, very soon recovered her health.

ARTICLE IX.

ERETHISM OF THE SEXUAL SENSE BY MEDIATE CONTACT.

The sensitiveness of the generative apparatus is such, that it is not necessary for the organs to be in immediate conjunction, in order to produce a state of super-excitation sufficient to cause many of the disorders I have described.

CASE CXIV.—When I was a student, one of my friends, of an excessively sensitive and intelligent nature, lived in the same house with a very fine-looking young girl, with whom he was passionately enamored. He saw her every day, and remained occasionally quite a long time with her. But she was a virtuous girl whom he was obliged to respect.

Upon the mere sight of her he loved, his blood was boiling; he was seized with such a violent priapism, that the pressure of her hand, the simple contact of her dress, were sufficient to determine a spontaneous emission. He abandoned himself with frenzy to this sort of enjoyment, and repeated it often several times in the same day. His health could not stand it long.

He fell into a state of enervation such as to become pitiful. He came to me constantly to have

his heart auscultated, saying that it seemed as if it were going to burst, so violent were the palpitations he had ; often I saw him burst into tears.

I obtained from him a promise to change his residence, and never to re-visit the girl. He recovered, but very slowly.

CASE CXV.—A professional friend, with whom I was very intimate, made me the confidant of a very distressing neuropathic condition in which he had fallen since the age of thirty-three. He asked me, at the same time, to narrate the history of his disease at the first opportunity, so that his example might be a lesson for young physicians placed in analogous situations.

He had to attend at the same time two hysterical girls. They belonged to a family who had educated them in principles of the strictest morality ; they were even very pious, rather too much so, perhaps ; and I believe that the ascetic life to which these young girls abandoned themselves without moderation, had, with their ardent organization, contributed to develop this disease.

During their attacks, which were very violent, it often happened that these patients abruptly carried their hands to the genitals, as if suddenly a quick

pain was felt in that part. Struck with this motion, their mother asked the physician if they might not have some disease or displacement of the womb, and if it would not be advisable for him to ascertain it.

The physician answered that he was ready to do so, if it was only to allay the maternal uneasiness. He accordingly examined the young patients, who both exhibited the quickest sensitiveness to the contact of the exploring finger.

In one of them, the physician found the os very low and remarked it to the mother, who asked if it would not be well to push it back in place. The physician re-introduced his finger and pushed the womb to its normal position.

At the subsequent visit, the mother reported that the replacing of the womb had the happiest effect, but that she (the girl) complained that it had fallen again, and that she wished him to re-examine it. The physician did so, and replaced the uterus a second time. During this little operation the patient again manifested a very vivid emotion.

As soon as he had withdrawn his finger, she exclaimed that the womb was coming down already, and requested him to put it back again. He resumed the same operation ; but this time she begged him

to leave his finger to keep the womb from falling, until she could feel that it was well in place. He did not move, keeping the uterus as high as possible ; but the patient retained his finger there for a long while, on the pretext that it was not yet in place.

Very soon the practitioner noticed that the sensations which the patient exhibited upon the introduction of the finger had undoubtedly become a venereal orgasm.

He was thoroughly confirmed in his opinion later, seeing that his visits were demanded more than ever. The parents, who could not guess the motives their daughter had in asking for him, begged him to come very often to renew the operation, because it was the only thing which could calm the hysterical fits.

The physician tried the use of retentive means, the sponge, the Gariel pessary ; but the patient insisted on his removing or replacing these when necessary, pretending that any body else would hurt her, and that she could not do it herself ; and each time, she asked him to raise the womb.

The young physician was not long in suffering the impression of these erotic scenes, which greatly exalted his senses. While he was, with his finger, fulfilling

his office near his patient, an operation she prolonged as much as possible, he very often had spontaneous emissions, which debilitated him very much. He became neuropathic; he had an almost constant cephalalgia, which rendered any intellectual labor very difficult.

His health broke down entirely by an unfortunate chance which threw in his way at the same time the treatment of another hysterical girl, in whom the examination of the uterus, provoked by the parents themselves, under the same circumstances as in the case of the first patient, produced the same result. It was not necessary in this instance to elevate the womb: it was not displaced. But the mother of the patient,—rendered anxious by pains complained of by her daughter in the genitals, and by her frequently putting her hands to that part,—asked the physician if he did not know of any means to relieve her of these local pains. She then spoke of a young girl who had a uterine disease, and in whom tents of lint were introduced, saturated with sedative substances. She begged the physician to use them and to introduce them himself, to be sure it was well done. This operation had here the same result as in the preceding case. The doctor was continually

requested to introduce new tents, and, when he was in the act of doing so, he was urged to introduce several of them successively, because their soothing effect did not last long enough. These little manœuvres evidently produced a very intense venereal orgasm ; and the physician who was subjected to such influences experienced the same accidents as with his other patient.

He ended by falling into such a valetudinarian condition that he was obliged temporarily to give up all intellectual work and to abandon his practice.

Deprived of his attentions, his two hysterical patients consulted new medical advisers merely as a matter of form ; the latter failing to satisfy them like him they had lost. But they grew no worse on this account ; quite the contrary. Their hysterical symptoms gradually subsided, and they could soon do without a physician. If the one who suited their tastes had continued to treat them, I believe that their maladies would have lasted indefinitely.

The foregoing observations appear to me to convey a double lesson :

1. In hysterical girls it is prudent to avoid remedies applied to the genital organs. The use of such remedies only superexcites mechanically the exces-

sive sensitiveness of these organs. The genital apparatus must, on the contrary, be given absolute rest, and general treatment only is to be used. The only local remedy which may offer chances of success is conception; that is to say, the normal and complete connection of the sexes.

2. Young physicians should distrust the propensity which hysterical girls may have to ask from them the use of those local means in which their intervention is called to play a more or less frequent or active part.

ARTICLE X

COITION IN VASE INDEBITO.

§ 1.—*Mouth.*

The sexual frauds in which the mouth is substituted for the vagina are far from being rare. I have cauterized chancres on the tongue and mucous patches at the commissure of the lips, originating from this source.

§ II.—*Anus.*

There is a sort of fraud, *in vase indebito*, which is a shame to humanity, and which I have observed,

not only in our towns, but also among our country people : I mean the obscene practice of *Pederasty*.*

CASE CXVI.—Country woman aged twenty-six.

A fine brunette, who married at eighteen, a man aged thirty, of hideous and bestial face, and whose instincts are lower than those of the brutes. He is a lazy fellow, who, being hardly able to support himself by his work, his principal resource, declared to his wife on the night of his wedding, that he did not want any children. Since then, he has made a practice of sodomy, touching the organs of generation only at the entrance, and with great apprehension. This woman, who was a splendid girl at the time of her marriage, very soon faded. The functions of the stomach were perverted ; she vomited often after her meals. She has become gastralgic and hypochondriac. Her husband, seeing her so sick, imagined that she was deranging her health with other men, and became very jealous.

When she consulted me, and after I had forced from her the confession of all the circumstances I have related, I told her that conception would be the best of remedies: Sometime after, I met her;

* A Tardieu, *Etude médico-légale sur les attentats aux mœurs*. 5th edition. Paris, 1866.

she was still suffering. Her husband continued his obscene habit. She had come to consult me unknown to him, and did not dare to ask him, in my name, the satisfaction of becoming a mother, in order to allay her sufferings. But having expressed the greatest desire of having a child, he answered her, under the impression of his jealousy : “*Never, never, because if you were pregnant, you could see your lovers too easily.*”

CASE CXVII.—Woman aged thirty-two.

She is attacked with mucous patches of the anus, but has nothing on her genitals.

I asked her if the disease might not have been communicated by immediate contact. After a great deal of denial and hesitation, she said that her husband, in order not to have any children, *had connection with her there.*

This husband, a very salacious man, became paraplegic at forty-one.

CASE CXVIII.—Woman aged forty-two.

Painful fissure of the anus ; quick apprehensions, mind disturbed.

When I ask her why she is so anxious, she tells me that she is possessed with the idea that she has

a *bad disease*, meaning thereby a venereal infection. This circumstance arouses my suspicions, and provokes on my part some questions relative to connections *in vase indebito*. She confessed that her husband, who was a perfect satyr, did not have intercourse with her in any other way, in order to avoid pregnancy ; and that this was the source of her anguish. She had, however, only a simple fissure, determined by coition, which healed promptly after excision.

CASE CXIX.—Woman aged forty. Dark complexion ; well-formed.

Organic contraction of the rectum, which causes her to run down and die slowly.

She confides to me that for a long time, her husband used to *see her only there*.

A short time previously this man had come to consult me for a general syphilis, which had provoked a complete alopecia. But the woman had never had any symptom of disease whatever, except in the rectum. Nevertheless, with the idea that the evil might be syphilitic, I put her under appropriate treatment, which was useless. The stricture took on all the characters of scirrhus, and she died in a short time.

The woman was scarcely dead, when her husband, who had presented for some time signs of cerebral trouble, became totally insane.

ARTICLE XI.

INERTIA AND COLDNESS IN THE WOMAN,

I have yet to describe an indirect fraud, or rather an attempt at fraud, which in this instance depends upon the woman.

I have known some women, who not having at all the instinct of maternity, or having it to a limited degree, tired by one or two children already born, and not wishing to increase their number, imagined that a woman can not conceive unless she feels more or less acute sensations in her connection with her husband. They had, therefore, sufficient strength of mind and self control to remain completely inert during the approaches of their husbands. The position of the man under such circumstances becomes ridiculous. The coolness of his wife wounds his feelings; he thinks it is because she has connections with others, and he is devoured by jealousy.

It is still much worse if conception occurs under such conditions.

The husband being of the same opinion as his wife as to the necessity of a certain action on her part to produce conception, does not doubt her infidelity.

CASE CXX.—A poor young woman comes to my office to tell me that she is in despair ; that she will drown herself, if I diagnose that she is pregnant.

She tells me that her husband is excessively jealous ; that he makes her generally very unhappy ; but that his ill-treatment has redoubled during the last few months, because she told him that she thought she was pregnant. She further says that this man is selfish and indolent ; that she has already two children who, very often have no bread to eat. It is true that her husband practices frauds when he is sober ; but when he is drunk, which happens very often, he does not know what he is doing. She, then, distrusting his presence of mind, does all she can to remain indifferent to his caresses, with the idea that she may thus avoid a new pregnancy.

But as she has not always been so with him, he imagines that it is from indifference, and that she must have relations with other men ; his jealousy is very great. “ If I am pregnant,” she exclaims, “ he will kill me. I dare not go home.”

I found this unfortunate creature three or four months pregnant ; at this news she was in great despair. She rushed to the door saying that she would destroy herself. I detained her and endeavored to make her listen to reason ; promising her to go the same day to see her husband and explain the matter to him.

I kept my word and, threatening the husband with legal measures, I succeeded in putting an end to his brutality.

SECOND PART.

DANGERS AND INCONVENIENCES OF FRAUDS TO THE FAMILY.

FRAUDULENT practices in the conjunction of the sexes often occasion injurious consequences to the family. They induce tastes and habits of debauchery, and hence lead to inconstancy, infidelity, and adultery.

Men become inclined to seek the excitement of unexpected or unusual pleasures, rather than to enjoy the natural or easy ones offered in their own families.

Thus I have seen husbands abandon beautiful, accomplished, and prepossessing wives, to attach themselves to debased concubines, or to disgrace themselves in the filth of bagnios.

When, on the other hand, a man sees himself surrounded by a numerous family, the fruit of a

regular life, he is led towards serious ideas and thoughts of the future, which make him repel the seductions of libertinism. Legitimate children are a source of satisfaction ; there is no joy purer, more durable for the human heart. Illegitimate children, on the contrary, are the source of troubles and annoyances of all kinds ; and for this reason frauds are more common among unmarried persons.

The husbands who practice frauds are selfish, cowardly, indolent men who wish to avoid the care of rearing a number of children, in order *to enjoy life*, according to their expression. This love of comfort, of material enjoyment, often leads too far. The public wealth and general prosperity have increased in a very rapid ratio during the last half-century. Formerly, men, who through industry and economy, were able to provide for the prime necessities of life thought themselves very fortunate ; in our day, he who is willing to work and economize, is sure to find his labor largely remunerated. But instead of remaining contented, man's desires, which are rarely limited, soon lead him to consider superfluities as necessary. In order to obtain these much coveted superfluities, these luxuries, this enjoyment of variety, it is requisite that he should not have

too many children to support ; it is then that frauds are put in practice. But these abnormal connections entail consequences which often profoundly disturb the family relations. Although the husband may be confident that he has taken every precaution, the wife may become pregnant, and jealousy breaks forth with all its fury.

This result may be caused by two circumstances :

A man returns home at night after a dinner with some friends ; he is more or less intoxicated. He caresses his wife, under the impression that he is taking his customary precautions to avoid conception ; but the fumes of wine have troubled his brain. Dulled by fatigue and want of rest, he operates awkwardly ; and then, his passions satisfied, falls into a peaceful sleep. A few weeks afterwards, the wife, finding that her menses are suppressed, announces to her astounded husband that she is pregnant.

At other times, a very salacious husband has intercourse with his wife several times in the same night, and at short intervals. Although he be careful to practice fraud, it may happen that a few drops of semen, remaining in the urethra after a first coition, and conveyed to the neck of the uterus in a second connection, will produce fecundation.

In addition to the cases already reported, (see cases LVI, LVIII, LIX, and LX), I have been made the confidant of marital suspicions and of domestic storms, caused by pregnancy following these frauds. I have even seen couples separated on account of conception of which the husband positively denied the authorship, when I had the very best of reasons to believe that the woman was perfectly innocent.

One of the serious consequences of conjugal frauds to the family is that they become a school of demoralization for the woman. Almost all the adulterous women I have known had husbands addicted to frauds. They were originally very virtuous ; but their husbands having had the imprudence to teach them all the refinements of lubricity, and, after carrying these practices to satiety with them, committing the folly of frequenting other women, these wives, whose senses were superexcited, and whose pride was deeply wounded, ended by putting in practice with other men the lessons they had received from their husbands.

CASE CXXI.—I have attended an unfortunate woman whom such circumstances had thrown into the arms of a lover. This latter, less skilful than

her husband, fecundated her. She was obliged to go to a strange town to be confined clandestinely, and to place her infant in a foundling hospital. Her husband would never see her again.

There are also husbands addicted to frauds, who, very prompt in the satisfaction of their sexual desires, have wives whose senses are very slowly moved. The result is that these women experience a disappointment, which leads them to seek for men whose organization is more like their own.

CASE CXXII.—A woman comes to consult me, exhibiting several chancres within the vulva. Knowing her husband to be a man of very regular conduct, of a serious disposition, and wholly occupied in the duties of his profession, I remark to her that it is impossible that he could have made her such a gift.

She admits this without hesitation, and as an excuse for her shameful condition, accuses her husband of being a man who only thinks of himself; who, in his intercourse with her, satisfies himself with disappointing rapidity, without preamble, and leaves her immediately, as if she were there for nothing, and when her own enjoyment has scarcely commenced.

It is easy to imagine what humiliation a woman must experience when her husband leaves her in the midst of an unsatisfied orgasm.

This patient confesses that she finally encouraged the advances made to her by a certain admirer with refined manners and tastes—a sentimental gallant ; and that it is from him that these chancres were contracted.

After having borne two children in the beginning of her marriage, she says that her husband practised frauds, adding these words, which struck me very forcibly : “ Ah, sir ! if he had never done so, and I could have had a child every two or three years, these children would have given me occupation, and I should have remained virtuous.”

I have observed several analogous cases, and ascertained that nothing disgusts a woman more with her husband, that nothing will lead her more promptly into adultery, than the unfortunate disposition of a man given to frauds, who satisfies himself quickly, almost bestially, without consideration for the feelings of a woman whose nervous system is moved more slowly, or one with delicate sentiments, whose nature revolts from such behavior.

It is no uncommon occurrence for husbands to commit the imprudence, the folly, of forcing fraudulent caresses upon their wives, when the latter are suffering from great fatigue, restlessness, or other disorder. I have seen women take an aversion to such husbands.

CASE CXXIII.—Young woman, aged twenty-four.

Her face beams with candor and good-nature. She complains of cruel neuralgia in the head ; of gastralgia ; and of a very distressing state of languor. Her sad manner leads me to suspect that moral trouble must be the cause. I press her with questions. She informs me that she has a child three years old, since whose birth her husband has practised frauds in order not to have any more. These frauds, she says, *disgust* her ; and she feels that if she had another child it would fill her existence. Since the first no longer requires the constant care of early infancy, and could be replaced by another in her arms, she experiences a feeling difficult to describe : it is that her child has become an annoyance. She expresses the greatest joy when I tell her that I will speak to her husband, and enjoin him to put an end to her *sterility*.

Nothing is worthy of more attention from parents who wish to marry their daughters, than the moral disposition of the intended husband. If a young girl, candid and of delicate sentiments, be united to one of those men in whom the bestial instinct dominates over moral considerations, she is lost.

CASE CXXIV.—A distressed mother brings to me her daughter, aged nineteen, and married since eighteen months to a man who does not want any children, and who persistently practises frauds in his connections with her. Three months after her marriage she had all the symptoms of an intense metritis, which did not stop the husband. Coition very painful.

The mother, who sleeps in the room adjoining, tells me that she hears her daughter cry upon the approaches of her husband.

Unable to support any longer such an existence, this young woman leaves the conjugal home with her mother, who inveighs vehemently against the brutality of her son-in-law. The young woman declares that she holds her husband in abomination. She is affected with a very intense metro-vaginitis. Uterus very painful to pressure, and discharging profusely a yellowish and bloody muco-pus.

CASE CXXV.—A man, aged forty, succeeded in seducing a girl of twenty-two by using an infamous artifice : He had intoxicated her. Public opinion accused him even of having introduced narcotics in her drinks.

Once seduced by his first approaches, the young girl gave herself to him without reserve, and for several years they maintained fraudulent relations ; then they decided to marry and have children. She became pregnant, but the exhausted organs could only endure gestation until the sixth month, when a miscarriage occurred, to her bitter disappointment and regret. I consoled her, saying that the mischief could be repaired. But she did not conceive afterwards, and then her fury against her seducer knew no bounds. One day this man was taken seriously ill, and sent for me. On seeing me approach him, she exclaimed : “ *You are too kind to trouble yourself about him ; let him die, the filthy beast.*”

I have recorded one observation (CASE CXXII) which shows that frauds exercised by the husband constitute a school of demoralization for the wife. I subjoin another example of this, which struck me very forcibly :

CASE CXXVI.—Man aged fifty-eight.

Wife much younger.

Only one child ; in the first year of marriage.

Since his birth, frequent and continued frauds. But this habit has superexcited the sexual instinct to a high degree in the woman ; and while the husband becomes more moderate with advancing age, the wife, much younger, grows more and more passionate. She seduces a good-looking youth of sixteen, whom she has in her service, and instructs him in the practice of genital frauds. These premature excesses seriously impair his health ; he is pale, languishing, has his eyes encircled with a dark hue. His mistress calls me to visit him. I find in her a small vivacious woman, of fascinating aspect, notwithstanding her age. From certain remarks she makes, I suspect that something more than common has taken place between them. I overwhelm her with questions, and succeed at last in making her confess her infamous conduct. To excuse herself, she says that this young man has a very ardent temperament, and that to prevent his ruining himself in dissipation with women of bad character, she thought to render him an eminent service in giving him aliment for his passion at home. She repeated to me the sophisms by which J. J. Rousseau endeavored to

justify the conduct of Mme. Warens towards him. This woman had placed herself in a very bad position, as her son, who was already twenty-two years old, appeared to me to have discovered the disgraceful passion of his mother.

Nothing is more gloomy than the interior of a family without children; above all if there have been any in the beginning of the marriage and they have been taken away by death. And when, after the loss of these children, long practice of frauds has rendered the organs of the woman incapable of new conceptions, remorse is added to affliction, and the situation becomes dreadful.

CASE CXXVII.—A couple had an only son nineteen years old. At that age a severe attack of fever carried him off.

The husband had only had that one child by calculation, in order that his son might be as rich as himself. He had recourse to fraudulent connections, notwithstanding the protestations of his wife, who wished very much for a daughter.

Their child being dead, they tried in vain to have another.

The mother, broken-hearted and in despair, then cast in her husband's face the bitterest reproaches.

“You are a monster!” she would constantly say to him, “you refused to have more children, saying that you could not support them, while you were keeping and breeding dogs and horses, and now God has punished you as you deserve!”

CASE CXXVIII.—A couple who have had two children, a boy and a girl, one immediately after the other. Ceasing with these, they commence sexual frauds.

These children grew in flourishing health, and were exhibited with pride by their parents. The oldest was fifteen, when they both died of scarlet fever in the same week. Their father followed them very soon, dying of pneumonia.

I have never witnessed despair like that of the mother thus left alone in the world. Ten years after the death of her children, when I met this poor unfortunate woman, tears immediately started from her eyes. “*Vox in Rama audita est; ploratus et ululatus multus; Rachel plorans filios suos et noluit consolari, quia non sunt.*”

THIRD PART.

DANGERS AND INCONVENIENCES OF FRAUDS TO SOCIETY.

SEXUAL frauds are prejudicial to society in two ways :

They are a cause of demoralisation ; They produce a notable diminution in the increase of population.

CHAPTER I.

DEMORALISATION.

Fraudulent practices greatly favor libertinism.

He who would not seduce a woman under the condition of having regular connections, which might entail the embarrassment of a pregnancy, will not hesitate, if he be expert in frauds, to carry seduction to its furthest limits, minus conception. The practice of sexual frauds is, therefore, one of the great-

est inducements to dissipation. The picture of the evils generated by these frauds ought, then, to banish them and to favor legitimate and regular connections. It is a great lesson of moral and social hygiene.

In fact, respect for woman is one of the most characteristic signs of the moral greatness of societies.

Among primitive peoples, the woman is most generally the slave of the man, the sport of his passions and his caprices.

The more civilization advances, the more the social condition of woman is ameliorated. The nations where she is the object of a sort of worship, are those where moral ideas have progressed the most.

Is it respecting woman to make her the instrument of ignoble lust?

The practice of frauds is essentially demoralising by the facility it gives to inconstancy, and to keeping several mistresses at once.

I have cited (Case LXX) the example of a rich man who had four or five mistresses at the same time. If he had had children by the first one, perhaps the pre-occupations which would have resulted might have deterred him from seeking other conquests ; at

all events, it is almost certain that he would not have had children by four or five women at once, and that consequently he would have contented himself with one or two, instead of flying from conquest to conquest, to satisfy an attraction of curiosity, or rather vanity. “*Self-love*,” said J. J. Rousseau, “*makes more victims than love.*”

The practice of frauds demoralises very much by developing the taste and the habit of sexual voluptuousness. The junction of the sexes becomes nothing more than the satisfaction of a concupiscence, or an obscene lubricity, instead of the union to which nature invites us by the attraction of pleasure, and which must have for its consequence, pregnancy ; that is to say, a condition calculated to awake in the heart the most serious and sweetest pre-occupations.

The practice of frauds incites in the woman habits of voluptuousness, which lead her into adultery. Besides, how can a husband be inclined to respect a lascivious woman ?

Women who acquire such habits, lose in the eyes of their husbands that moral prestige, that halo of modesty which forms their greatest charm. The girl whom a lover renders lascivious by the habitual

employment of frauds, is easily led to debasement, to prostitution, to infamy.

I have seen many young girls and wives become a disgrace to their families and subjects of public scandal, because seducers, practised in frauds, had given them the first lessons of debauchery.

The evils produced by the vice I am combating, have already struck the eyes of others. Some even have been too vividly impressed, and have exaggerated its consequences. Pessimist writers, austere moralists, have proclaimed that sexual frauds are *leading our society to ruin*. They would willingly utter the cry of the poet, witness of the decadence of Rome :

Sævior armis

Luxuria incubuit victumque ulciscitur orbem.

These have, in my opinion, fallen into a great exaggeration. No, frauds are not so formidable. They are like prostitution, a vice which mars the brilliant picture of our modern civilization.* It is because this picture is splendid ; because it excites to a high degree my admiration, that I would like to see erased from it the spots which produce

* Parent-Duchatelet, *De la prostitution dans la ville de Paris*, 3rd edition. Paris, 1857. Jeannel, *De la prostitution au XIXe siècle*. Paris, 1868.

unseemly shadows. I am far from being one of those detractors of my time, of those morose men who regret, (because they were interested in their preservation,) some institutions and manners forever buried in the shroud of the past.

Our age triumphantly refutes its assailants, by imitating the philosopher of ancient times before whom motion was denied ; it moves, it advances in all the improvements that the material life and moral existence of nations are susceptible of acquiring.

But, upon one point of this admirable whole, illustrated by the civilization of the nineteenth century, I have seen a blot ; I have been struck by it ; and I am trying to advise some means to erase it.

It seems that the further man is removed from his natural state, the more depraved and perverse he becomes in the intercourse of the sexes. It is certain that sexual frauds are much more common in cities than in the country. What is the reason ? The love of ease and comfort. We are inclined to avoid having children, in order to escape care and to enjoy life ourselves. But in this ardor for enjoyments, we are often led too far. I have seen a great number of men addicted to frauds, who, enervated

by this pernicious habit, became disgusted with their labor, without losing their aspirations towards riches and ease. They were then taken with an unwise ambition. They abandoned the fields or the work-shops, to go to large cities, to run the chances of fortune, and perhaps to die in hospitals.

Fraudulent practices between lovers offer one of the greatest hindrances to marriage. When a young girl has allowed such licences to the man she would have wished for a husband, the latter, whose passion is satisfied, having no longer esteem for her whom he has abused, is often very careful not to marry her. From this cause are very many existences blighted and prospects ruined.

The practice of frauds being a serious violation of one of the most sacred laws of nature, blunts the moral sense of those who are given to it, and makes them less scrupulous to commit other offenses. The records of criminal law show that the greatest criminals have for their accomplices concubines with whom they very rarely have children, because they make use of sexual frauds.

Finally, these frauds have for society this serious inconvenience, that, often, a man exhausted by long practice of this enervating vice, decides, in order to

put an end to it, to marry; and that this man, worn out by debauchery, procreates only puny and sickly children.

CHAPTER II.

ARREST OF THE INCREASE OF POPULATION.

If, as Montesquieu and many other publicists have said, the power of a nation depends chiefly upon the number of able-bodied men who may be ranged in battle, it is easy to understand the injurious influence that frauds may exert upon the prosperity of nations. In fact, how many germs have been annihilated at the moment when they were about to become fecund ! Genital frauds looked upon in this light, are, then, a plague to society.

I know that there are other philosophers of happier mind, who, lulling their imaginations in a cheerful optimism, pretend that the golden age is near at hand, and that those human slaughters which are called battles will soon disappear before the breath of civilization. But this beautiful vision of a universal and lasting peace, which the abbot of St. Peter had already dreamed in the last century,

will remain undoubtedly a long time in the state of utopianism, if indeed it is ever to be realized.

Every fraud is an indirect infanticide; a germ lost and made unproductive. Men who practice such frauds are more guilty than those grain monopolists, those abominable speculators, who are accused in times of scarcity of destroying the provisions of wheat, or hay, by setting fire to them in order to raise the prices of goods they have accumulated in their private warehouses.

Is it not a shame to our civilization to see the growth of population decrease, numerous families become more and more scarce, while general welfare makes such rapid progress? We cannot here say with the Salernian School.*

Absque Cerere, friget Venus.

No, this diminution in the produce of sexual intercourse is the fruit of hideous calculation. It is a fact, painful to remark, but impossible to deny, that evil sometimes originates from the excess of good. The man who has become in easy circumstances, dreams of riches and opulence; if not for himself, for his progeny, to whom, through vanity,

* *L'Ecole de Salerne*, trad. par Ch. Meaux Saint-Marc. Paris, 1861.

he wishes to leave a large fortune. When a man is poor, he is less afraid to have a large family, for he hopes that his children will keep him in his old age.

It is certain that the population of France has ceased its progressive growth : all statisticians have observed this with sorrow.

In 1864, M. Michel Chevalier* demonstrated by figures that the fecundity of marriages had diminished sensibly.

At the end of the last century, the number of children procreated by each marriage was from four to five.

From 1855 to 1860, it is only three; it is in Paris that it is the least. The decrease is more marked in cities than in the country.

In a recent discussion in the Academy of Medicine, M. Broca† remarked *that marriages were less fecund and women more sickly, since a certain number of years*. He demonstrated by figures that the increase of population was not due to the increase of natality, but to the decrease of mortality, caused by the advance of general prosperity.

* Michel Chevalier, *Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Sciences morales*, 1864.

† Broca, *Bulletin de l'Académie de Médecine*, 1866-67, t. XXXII, p. 351, 397, 839, 889.

M. Boudet* insists that the birth-rate is diminishing, and that its progression is so slow that it seems to have stopped.

In such results who can deny the concealed but permanent undermining influence of sexual frauds?

Much attention has lately been attracted to the mortality of infants.† How much less must be the influence upon population of this mortality, than that of the vice which I am combating!

* Boudet, *Bulletin de l'Académie de Médecine*, Mai, 1867; t. XXXII, p. 741.

† *Bulletin de l'Académie de Médecine*, Paris, 1865-66, t. XXXI, *passim*, et Du Mesnil, *De l'Industrie des nourrices et de la mortalité des Nourrissons* (*Annales d'hygiène publique et de médecine légale*, Paris, 1867, 2nd series, t. XXVIII, p. 5 *et seq.*

CONCLUSION.

I SHOULD not feel that I had completely fulfilled my duty if after having described the evils produced by frauds in the exercise of the generative function, I omitted to seek by what means they could be prevented, or at least diminished.

Civil law does not penetrate into the intimate details of connections established between man and wife : nothing can be expected from that quarter.

Be it proclaimed aloud, to the honor of religious law, that catholicism has always severely proscribed conjugal frauds. But it is impossible to deny that in the times in which we live religious influence has lost its sway; the voice from the pulpit finds fewer listeners.

Well may we exclaim : “ *Quid leges, sine moribus, vanæ proficiunt?* ”

The conditions arising from the facts I have set forth having reference only to the health and welfare of the family and of society, philosophers with transcendental ideas will perhaps stigmatize an appeal to *self-interest* as narrow and petty. But when it is in question to cure one of the plagues of our race, the physician rejects no means ; he gladly avails himself of all.

Moreover, the precepts of hygiene are here in perfect harmony with those of religion. It was a physician, Astruc, who wrote these words : “ *Caste vivat, qui se sanum cupit?* ”

But, it may be asked, is it necessary that man and woman should procreate children indefinitely ; that the woman be always either pregnant or nursing ? No : from puerperal functions exercised without limit, there arise for the woman inconveniences sometimes as severe as from fraudulent sexual approaches.

Can celibacy be a refuge against all these risks of disease ? No : celibacy leads into illegitimate unions, into debauchery ; and the libertinism of bachelors offers still more inconveniences than that of the

married.* As to the continent, chaste celibacy to which persons of both sexes devote themselves under the empire of ideas which may sometimes be very elevated, it is incontestable that this voluntary paralysis of the reproductive system preserves from most of the evils I have described as being the effect of an intemperate exercise of the genital organs. Having been physician for a long number of years to several religious institutions, I have never seen there any serious disorders of the organs of generation. But *continent* celibacy leads often to other disorders, no less serious to health, above all in women, whose annihilation of the great function of maternity throws them into pulmonary consumption.

I purpose describing, in two subsequent papers, the inconveniences resulting from *excessive child-bearing* and from *celibacy*, to the individual, to the family, and to society.

The facts which I shall have collated in these three publications will lead, I hope, to a recognition of the full truth of the maxim: "*In medio stat virtus.*"

* See, on this subject, James Stark, *De l'influence du mariage sur la mortalité moyenne des deux sexes*, trad. par Fonssagrives (*Annales d'hygiène*, t. XXIX, p. 34).

By what means is it possible to instruct the public concerning the evils provoked by sexual frauds? I can see but two ways in which this result may be achieved: through our schools, and through the press. When I revert to my college reminiscences, I do not recollect ever having heard any of my professors speak seriously of sexual frauds. Is this altered nowadays? I may be pardoned for doubting it, since young physicians do not seem to me to be impressed with the importance of the subject, and the health of those intrusted to their charge suffers in consequence.

I have even been sometimes much surprised to hear that young men, exhausted and suffering from the habit of masturbation, had been advised by their physicians to have intercourse with women as a means of cure. These sexual relations were usually accompanied with frauds, and the remedy appeared to me to be worse than the disease.

The teaching of our schools presents, with regard to sexual frauds, a lamentable hiatus, which it is important to fill. I should like to see every young practitioner imbued with the facts I have exposed, and taught to appreciate all their bearings. Numerous occasions will not be wanting to apply

the principles thence resulting, in the course he will have to prescribe for his patients.

Nor do I think that, thus far, the medical press, or general or special treatises, have sufficiently insisted upon the question I have raised.

But the inculcations of our schools, wherein is taught the younger generation from which our profession is recruited, offer the most available means for the dissemination of salutary ideas. It is desirable that all physicians should be convinced of the necessity of proclaiming often that man cannot with impunity transgress that great behest of nature, that imperative law presiding over the propagation of the human race ; and that the rule to be followed in the exercise of the generative function is to be found in the discreet and measured observance of the Biblical precept : “ *Crescite et multiplicamini.* ”



REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF STRASBURG UPON
M. BERGERET'S BOOK, BY M. TOURDES, PROFESSOR TO
THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF STRASBURG.

PROF. TOURDES presented to the Medical Society the following report :

On Frauds in the accomplishment of the generative function ; the dangers and inconveniences of these frauds for the individual, the family, and society.

Under this title, Dr. Bergeret, chief physician to the Arbois Hospital, has presented us with an interesting study of practical hygiene and social economy.

A fact, which at this day is beyond doubt, is, that the population of France experiences a noticeable arrest of increase ; the discussions lately raised at the Academy of Sciences and at the Academy of Medicine * establish undeniably this deplorable

* *Bulletin de l'Académie de Médecine.* Paris, 1866-67. vol, XXXII.

situation. Marriages have become less prolific ; at the end of the last century, as far as can be proved by incomplete statistics, the mean number of children by each marriage was four to five ; since the beginning of the century it has decreased to between three and four. The *Annuaire des Longitudes* (1869, p. 224) gives upon this question characteristic information. From 1819 to 1832, 3·73 births to every marriage were calculated in France ; from 1832 to 1846, the number comes down to 3·28 ; between 1847 and 1860 it is only 3·10 ; if we confine ourselves to the statistics of 1865 we find for the whole of France a proportion of 3·10 between the births and marriages, and for the Department of Seine 2·65. The Bas-Rhin offers for the same year the favorable proportion of 4·38, but the proportion is far from being always so advantageous. In a period of six years, from 1855 to 1860, the fecundity of unions in the Bas-Rhin has been 3·84 to each marriage. The fecundity has always been better in proportion in the country than in cities ; for the same years we find 3·63 births to each marriage for city population, and 4·05 for the country.

Strasburg alone, according to the statistics established by our colleague, Prof. Stoeber, has presented

a mean number of 2·82 births to each marriage during the same period. The years have varied in fecundity ; the minimum has been 3·38 for urban population in 1858, and the maximum 3·38, in 1855. The extremes have been in the country, 3·67 and 4·59. The variations have always coincided in the country and in the cities, so that the maximum or the minimum fell upon the same years.

The fecundity of unions varies from complex influences ; it is generally in ratio with the deaths of the previous years. War is one of the principal causes in stopping the progressive increase of population. The campaigns of the Crimea, Italy, Mexico, have materially diminished the male population, and Africa is a permanent cause of decrease. Men dying in the field or in hospitals must not be alone counted ; but also those coming back from Africa or from the colonies, with a ruined constitution and who, when returned to their homes, pay the inevitable debt to death, which had only been delayed. It is in some unfortunate soldiers from Mexico that these deep alterations and incurable anæmias have been observed. The military profession, by retarding the epoch of marriage, diminishes also its fecundity.

M. Bergeret has not examined this question in its totality; he has attached himself to a single consideration to which he gives much attention ; it may be that in so proceeding he has exposed himself to the reproach of having exaggerated an influence which is not the only one, but which must certainly be considered.

One of the most powerful instincts is the one which tends to perpetuate species ; but this instinct which is so powerful, is misled and perverted ; it runs out of its natural sphere, and these fatal aberrations produce consequences which are at first concealed, but which soon become manifested by their general influence. M. Bergeret attributes in great part to *sexual frauds* the decrease observed in the fecundity of unions. In marriage, there is a desire to limit fecundity without imposing a barrier to sexual ardor. One is generally disposed to think that these odious calculations of egotism, these shameful refinements of debauchery, are met with mostly in cities and in rich families ; that small localities, country places, present still in great part the simplicity of morals which is attributed to primitive times, when every paterfamilias was proud of showing a numerous family. This is an error. I

wish to demonstrate, says M. Bergeret, to those who have confidence in the patriarchal habits of our country people, that they are laboring under a complete mistake. At this day, conjugal frauds are practiced by all classes of society.

Two principal causes have contributed to produce this result.

The first is the weakening of religious ideas which severely prohibit this kind of practice. It is not without serious motives that religion forbids all sorts of frauds in the exercise of the generative function. In this question, as in so many other points, moral precepts are in perfect harmony with natural laws, with the teachings of physiology, and the rules of hygiene.

The second is the increase of general prosperity, of riches, which causes the artisan, the farmer, the small beneficiary, to care less for creating arms which will be able to support them in their old age. Their prefer enjoying, as egotists, their acquired position, to taking the trouble of raising a numerous family.

The abolition of birth-right has not destroyed the vanity which had inspired the creation of this iniquitous privilege. Men possessed with the pride of riches

can not get accustomed to the thought of seeing their fortune divided, their chattels sold in partition ; and give birth to only one or two children. To avoid a too numerous family, they have recourse to conjugal frauds.

We will remark, however, that the influence of these frauds is much more common in cities than in the country ; marriages are more prolific in rural populations ; statistics leave no doubt in regard to it. In cities immorality is not the only cause of this difference ; marriages are contracted later ; a less hardy population, debilitated by sundry causes, produces less numerous and less sound children. If the farmer fears the division of his property, he appreciates the services rendered to him by his children, and his well calculated interest is here in accord with the laws of nature and of morals.

These frauds are practised in a still more frequent manner by persons living in illicit unions, and where all means are employed to avoid the natural consequences of sexual intercourse.

M. Bergeret has collected numerous examples of these sexual frauds and their effects ; his work is based upon 128 observations, exposed with details, of which several are conclusive. In the first part,

he brings to light the evils caused by these frauds in both sexes ; in the second, he speaks of their influence upon the family ; in the third, of their more general action upon society.

I place here, says M. Bergeret, woman before man, because she has much more to suffer from the vice I am combating. It is not surprising. The part of the man is very simple and of very short duration in the great act of generation. That of the woman, on the contrary, is complex ; her organs must perform their functions for a long time. The aim of nature must consequently have been to endow them with a very extended aptitude, and a special vitality. If this vitality and this aptitude are disturbed from their object by imprudent practices, is it astonishing that the greatest disorders be the result ?

Sexual frauds may provoke in them all diseases of the genital organs, from the simplest inflammation to the most severe degenerescences or disorganisations. When I review, says the author, the cases of diseases of the genital organs of women that I have attended, I believe that over three-quarters of those diseases were produced by sexual frauds, and that most frequently they could legitimately be attributed to this cause.

The observations number 70 ; they relate to diseases of the generative apparatus, from congestions and inflammations, to degenerations, acute and chronic metritis, leucorrhœas, metrorrhagias, hysteralgias, indurations, granulations, cancers, and lesions of the ovaries ; it is a complete *expose* of the affections of the uterus and ovaries. It is probable that in these several cases the cause alluded to has not acted alone, but its intervention is at least acknowledged. The author classifies among indirect frauds the connections after menopause, with sterile women, during menstruation or nursing ; he cites the instance of a blennorrhagia communicated to a woman 61 years old. In proving that sterility facilitates these aberrations and increases their danger, he gives his subject an extension which may appear exaggerated. In it are found all the inconveniences which are caused by the depravation of the reproductive instinct.

Man may also become a victim to this sort of habit : M. Bergeret has seen some cases of urethritis caused by connections during the catamenial period ; this moment had been chosen with the idea that conception was then impossible. The men who suffered the most by the facility given to them by

frauds of this kind to satisfy without fear their inclinations, were of advanced age, of tenacious passions, who continued during the second part of their lives the habits of the first. The most severe consequences of these disorders were diseases of the prostate.

A chapter is devoted to the history of sterility and impotency ; the troubles presented by the nervous system, the organs of digestion, of circulation, and of respiration, are also the subjects of particular study in both sexes ; in a few observations, the most severe disorders are seen to cease by stopping the cause of their production.

One of the dangers of these frauds for the family is to introduce into it the taste and habit of debauchery, and to lead to misconduct by obviating the fear of conception. The man who sees growing up around him a numerous family, the fruit of a regular commerce with a wife who partakes of his destiny, is led towards serious ideas and thoughts of the future, which induce him to repulse the seduction of debauchery. Another consequence no less common of these conjugal frauds, says M. Bergeret, is that they become for woman a school of demoralisation. Most of the women I have seen fall into adultery, says he, had husbands inclined to those

fatal habits ; their husbands having had the imprudence to teach them these shameful refinements, and having also had the shamelessness, after having pushed these practices to satiety, to have intercourse with other women ; their wives, whose senses were superexcited, and whose pride was deeply wounded, at last put in practice with others the lessons they had received from their husbands. How many young girls and young woman I have seen dishonor their families, and bring trouble into society, because skillful seducers had given them these first lessons !

Accidental conceptions, occurring notwithstanding all these precautions, give sometimes rise to suspicions, and become the starting point of troubles in families, or even the occasion of criminal actions. M. Bergeret reports some cases where the suspicions of the husband, excited by unexpected, but legitimate pregnancies, have led to acts of violence, to the expulsion of the woman from the conjugal home. In illegitimate unions, the same facts have also been observed and given ground for misplaced suspicions. Criminal abortion has sometimes been the result of these unforeseen awkwardnesses ; and sexual frauds have thus led into crime, persons who at the beginning of their relations, were far from suspecting it.

The extinction of a family is often the fatal consequence of voluntary limitation in the number of children. A family which is propagated by one or two offspring has little chance of duration ; it takes a very small number of generations to reach the inevitable end of extinction or sterility. M. Bergeret reports two striking cases of this sort.*

As to the injury experienced by society, does it not result from the demoralisation of its members and from the relaxation of family bonds ? If, as Montesquieu and many other publicists have said, the power of a nation depends partly on the number of men she may at a given time place on the battle field,—is not this arrest in the increase of population a source of decrease in national power ?

What is the remedy for this state of things ? The author has plainly put the question. Civil law can do nothing ; social economy has but an indirect action ; some easier means of living, a more secured welfare favors the increase of population. Religious law is formal, but its voice is not listened to. What are here the principles of hygiene ?

Must man and woman procreate children indefinitely ; must the woman be always either pregnant or

* See cases CXXVII and CXXVIII ; pages 149 and 150.

nursing? No; in the puerperal function, exercised without limit, there are for the woman some inconveniences as serious as in fraudulent connections of the sexes.*

Would celibacy be a refuge against all these sources of disease? No; celibacy leads into illegitimate unions, into debauchery; and the libertinism of bachelors offers still more inconveniences than that existing between the married. As to chaste, continent celibacy, to which a certain number of subjects of both sexes devote themselves under the empire of religious ideas, it is incontestable that this voluntary inactivity of the organs of reproduction preserves from most of the evils which are induced by the intemperate exercise of the genital organs. But continent celibacy also determines often other consequences no less serious for the health, especially for that of women. M. Bergeret thinks that the annihilation of the great functions of maternity is one of the causes of phthisis. Between celibacy and indefinite puerperality there is a happy medium; *in medio stat virtus*.

To show the price which is paid for the voluntary limitation of fecundity, is the surest means to check

* Fleetwood Churchill, *Diseases of Women*.

the progress of the evil. The public must know all the inconveniences to which sexual frauds lead. There are two ways by which this result can be obtained: The teachings in medical schools, and the publication of serious works upon the subject of these abuses. The teachings of schools, which instruct young generations of physicians, is a powerful means of dissemination for useful ideas. It is desirable, says M. Bergeret, that all physicians should be well convinced of the necessity of often proclaiming that man cannot with impunity violate this great behest of nature, this imperative law which presides over the propagation of the species; and that the rule to be followed in the exercise of the generative function must be the wise and measured observance of the Biblical precept: "*Crescite et multiplicamini.*"

The work of M. Bergeret has real value; undoubtedly he has not exposed the only cause of the stagnation in the increase of population, and in the want of fecundity of marriages; but he calls attention to a real evil, of which he examines the consequences. Let us acknowledge the full weight of this book, based on facts showing the concordance of moral laws with the precepts of hygiene, and

giving, upon a grave and delicate question, some serious warnings and salutary advice.

M. Bergeret is known in science by other works ; he is the author of several memoirs full of interest, published in the *Annales d'Hygiene et de Medicine Legale* ; he is a very distinguished physician, and we propose to the Medical Society to confer on him the title of corresponding member.

M. Rigaud does not think that the observations of M. Bergeret can be applied to country people, for whom a numerous family constitutes a fortune. He asks if it has been demonstrated by statistics that ill-assorted marriages in regard to age are more numerous than formerly. It would be a new cause to add to those which diminish the number of children proceeding from each union.

M. Tourdes answers that statistics prove that late marriages are less prolific than those contracted at a less advanced age. The question is complex ; M. Bergeret has unfortunately applied himself to the investigation of only one of its elements. The epoch of marriages, the progress of poverty and demoralisation, famines and epidemics, standing armies and war, the movement of populations towards cities, have their share of influence ; but human will, which

deliberately limits fecundation, is also to be taken into consideration. It is in this light that the author has placed himself, and he shows in a striking manner, upon the basis of facts, the fatal action of this cause upon the individual, upon the family, and consequently upon society.

M. Schutzenberger regards the importance attached by M. Bergeret to frauds in the accomplishment of the generative function as exaggerated. The diminishing of the increase of population in France depends upon many causes, amongst which come first the army, which, during several years, prevents the strongest young men, those who are the most free from bodily defects, from getting married. As to uterine diseases, their apparent increase may partly be accounted for by this, that women are examined with more attention than they used to be, when means of investigation possessed at this day were less employed. M. Schutzenberger observes also that it would be necessary to prove that women who have had many children have been less subject to uterine affections.

M. Hirtz thinks that if, in the country, rich families have fewer children, it may probably be due to intermarriages. He recalls to mind also the law

already formulated by Villermé,* according to which the increase of population of a country is in ratio with its alimentary resources. The population decreases inevitably when the density becomes too considerable. For the last thirty years the price of all things has been very much augmented.

M. Papillon cites the result of statistics, according to which the decrease in the number of births comes as a consequence of the high prices of subsistences.

M. Sedillot expresses his regret that M. Bergeret, after having exposed the inconveniences resulting for each man in particular and for society in general, from the transgression of laws imposed by nature, had not at least tried to discover some of the remedies which might possibly be opposed to the state of things he deplores.

* Villermé, *Mémoire sur la mortalité en France*. (*Mémoires de l'Académie de Médecine* ; Paris, 1828, vol. I, p. 51.)—*Des Epidémies sous le rapport d'Hygiène publique*. (*Annales d'Hygiène*, 1833, vol. IX, p. 5.)

